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Woman soldier hacked to death in Afula

Rabin: Attacker belonged to Hamas

DAVID RUDGE

A WOMAN soldier was hacked to death by an ax-wielding Palestinian terrorist in the heart of Afula yesterday — only a few meters from the police station.

Sgt. Liat Gabai, 19, who was returning home to Afula to attend a memorial service for her grandmother, fell to the ground with the ax embedded in her head and later died in the hospital. She is to be buried in the military cemetery this afternoon.

The terrorist, Wahib Abu Roub, 25, of Kabatiya, near Jenin, was caught by two passers-by and taken to the nearby police station.

Acting Northern Region police chief Rami Rahav said Roub claimed he had purchased the ax to kill IDF soldiers as an act of loyalty to the Fatah organization.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, however, said the murderer was a member of Hamas and that one of his brothers was in prison for hostile activities. He stressed that the Palestinian Authority could not be blamed and that the terrorist was, in fact, wanted by the Palestinian Police.

Rabin said he had apparently been involved in gun trafficking two years ago and Fatah activists had tried to kill him. He stressed



An Afula policeman holds up the ax used in yesterday's murder of Liat Gabai. (AP)

that he did not have a permit to enter Israel and such a person would never be granted one.

Both the Likud and Tsomet called for an immediate halt to negotiations with the Palestinians.

Roub's family said he was mentally unbalanced ever since he had been detained and beaten by Fa-

tah activists, who suspected him of collaboration.

The terrorist reportedly told police that he had passed the Green Line in a vehicle, although police said he had apparently arrived in some form of public transport, either on a bus or by taxi. Police are investigating how he managed to evade IDF and police

checkpoints.

Rahav stressed, however, that with all the checkpoints and the ongoing activities by police and Border Police in the area there were many places where people from the territories could cross into Israel, and it was impossible to hermetically seal the border.

The attack occurred shortly af-

ter 2 p.m., between the central bus station and the police station. Yitzhak Ohayon was looking for a parking place when he saw a man approach Gabai, who was carrying a kit bag, and hit her with the ax.

"He struck her, and she fell to the ground, trying to protect herself with her hands. Then he struck again twice more," said Ohayon, 41, who works for the local Histadrut branch.

"I left the car in the middle of the street, jumped out, and ran up to the terrorist. I grabbed him around the chest and held him tight. With another man, Moshe Mor, I pushed him toward the nearby police station. When I looked around at the girl, I could see the ax was still embedded in her head."

Gabai was rushed to Ha'emek Hospital in critical condition and later evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where she died.

Police sealed off the area, as a crowd gathered nearby amid some chants of "Death to Arabs." All residents of the territories working in the town, as well as many Israeli Arabs, either left or were evacuated by police to prevent reprisals.

Extra police were called in, but for the most part residents heeded calls by police and Mayor Tzadok Nawi to "act responsibly and exercise restraint."

Nawi expressed shock over the attack just seven months after the suicide car bomb attack in the same part of town in which eight people — most of them residents of Afula — were killed and 44 wounded.

Among those who gathered at the scene was Yaffa Elharar, whose daughter Maya, was killed in the bombing.

'If it hadn't been Liat, it could have been me'

DAVID RUDGE

MOSHE Mor was walking towards the police station in the center of Afula when Liat Gabai, carrying a kit bag, passed by him going in the opposite direction.

"A second later, I heard the squeal of brakes of a heavy vehicle and turned around and saw a man attacking her with an ax. He struck her three times," said Mor.

Mor, a renovations contractor from the Givat Moreh district of Afula added, "I was momentarily stunned and then I ran towards the man and grabbed him by the throat and then Yitzhak Ohayon came up and helped me. The terrorist didn't try to resist. In fact I think he was trying to make for the police station to prevent being lynched by a mob."

Mor, whose daughter, the eldest of four children, is serving in the army, said police heard his calls and quickly came out of the station, handcuffed the suspect and bundled him inside.

"He just wanted a victim and now when I think about it I realize that if it hadn't been Liat, it would probably have been me," said Mor. "He was only a few paces behind me when Liat passed by and he must have decided to attack her, probably because she was in uniform."

"I know her and all her family. We were neighbors for many years. It's heartbreaking," he said.

"This is by no means the first



Murder victim Liat Gabai. (IDF Spokesman)

attack in Afula. We are at a crossroads, being so near the Green Line, and Afula has been a center for these kind of attacks because of the proximity to the territories.

"Personally, I believe the whole of the territories should be closed off completely and they should be left to their own devices. We don't need them here. Drastic measures have to be taken if we are to try and make sure that there won't be any more victims," he added.

Beilin: Go straight to final status talks

DAVID MAKOVSKY

IDF redeployment and Palestinian elections in the territories are probably unworkable, and therefore Israel and the PLO should consider jettisoning the next phase of the peace process and begin final status negotiations now, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told reporters yesterday.

His remarks came just days before the cabinet is to debate the future of the negotiations, which are to resume in Cairo on Monday.

Beilin insisted abandonment is necessary because of the complexity of the task of balancing IDF redeployment outside of Palestinian population centers with the security needs of the settlers.

"It could be that the effort, energy, and time that we would need to invest in reaching an interim agreement could be better spent in negotiating final status arrangements," he said.

When pressed, Beilin did not deny that a major domestic politi-

(Continued on Page 2)

High Court recognizes homosexuals as couple

EVELYN GORDON

IN a precedent-setting 2-1 ruling on homosexual rights, the High Court of Justice yesterday decided that companies must give the same benefits to a homosexual employee's live-in partner as to a heterosexual's live-in partner.

The case involved an El Al steward, Yonatan Danilovitch, who has been living with the same homosexual partner since 1979. El Al has a policy that all employees are given a free or discounted ticket for themselves and their spouses once a year. Live-in part-

ners are also given the free ticket if the couple is living as man and wife in every respect, but cannot legally marry. Danilovitch therefore asked that a free ticket be given to his live-in partner.

The company refused, and Danilovitch appealed to the regional labor court, which upheld his claim. Giving benefits only to an employee's legal spouse would not be discriminatory, the labor court said, but once live-in partners are included, excluding homosexual partners would violate a 1988 law prohibiting discrimination because of sexual inclination. The National Labor Court upheld this ruling, so El Al petitioned the High Court.

Justices Aharon Barak and Dalia Dorner, with Ya'acov Kedmi dissenting, upheld the court's ruling.

El Al announced that it would fully comply with the High Court ruling. The company added that Danilovitch was an outstanding steward, highly praised by passengers and his fellow workers.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual tendency, said Barak, would only be justified if one's sexual tendency were relevant to the issue at hand. In this case, he said, it is clear that the relevant factor is the maintenance of a joint household, rather than marriage as such, because otherwise, El Al would not grant this benefit to a man living with a woman who is married to somebody else.

From that perspective, there is no difference between the man who must endure separation from his live-in girlfriend during his flights and the man who must endure the same separation from his



HANUKKAH

THEN (164 B.C.E) and NOW (1994 C.E)

When the Maccabees liberated Jerusalem after three years of intermittent mountain fighting, their objective was not only to cleanse the defiled Temple. Nor was the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, a celebration of the military victory. Hanukkah symbolized the survival of Judaism against the menace posed by Hellenization.

The current dispute over the status of Jerusalem is also more than a political struggle to maintain Israel's sovereignty over the Holy City. The issue is the three thousand year bond between the Jewish people and their capital city unparalleled in the annals of history.

We, the undersigned, reaffirm our solidarity with an undivided Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.

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Donor states agree to give PA \$102m.

THE donor states meeting here yesterday committed themselves to giving \$102 million to the Palestinian Authority to cover most of its \$123m. budget deficit for 1994.

Caio Koch-Weser, World Bank vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa, is confident that the remaining \$20m. will be covered by the donors soon.

Palestinians, Israelis, and the World Bank described the third meeting of the ad hoc liaison committee as the most successful so far. All donor states participated and, for the first time, the donors and the Israelis agreed with the Palestinians on the PA's needs and on the projects which should be financed.

"The Israelis backed us on all our demands. Uri Savir's opening speech was very supportive," said one of the Palestinian delegates.

Nabil Shaath, head of the Palestinian delegation, said the clashes between Hamas and the Palestinian Police in Gaza had without doubt convinced the donors to grant

emergency aid to the PA.

Besides the \$102m. for the PA budget, the donors committed themselves to grant \$23m. for job-creation projects, which will provide several thousand jobs within a few weeks.

Palestinian sources said that, together with the Israelis, they are asking the donors to immediately allocate \$45m. for projects, which would offer employment for around 10,000 Palestinians within the next two months.

Shaath said that with the \$23m., the Palestinians would be able to employ 5,000 workers.

The donors also agreed to set up a local donors' coordination system. Representatives from the World Bank and the donor countries will meet periodically with the PA in Gaza to supervise and facilitate the transfer of funds.

On the political front, Foreign Minister Shi-

mon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed to start negotiations on elections and redeployment in Cairo next Monday.

According to Shaath, the Israelis accepted Arafat's suggestion to have two committees negotiate simultaneously – an election committee and a new concept committee.

"This committee will deal with the difficult issues like redeployment and the extent of the empowerment of the PA in the West Bank during the interim period," Shaath said.

He added that the most difficult issue on the agenda will be redeployment in the Jerusalem and Bethlehem areas.

According to Shaath, none of these issues have been discussed in any of the talks here or in Cairo.

"In Brussels we agreed on the schedule and agenda of the negotiations, and discussed other issues relating to the Gaza/Jericho accord, like the safe passage of people and goods," said Shaath.

Joy and scorn over court ruling on gay rights

HERB KEINON

partner, Col. Doron Maisel, who died three years ago.

"I expect the defense minister to summon me and recognize my rights," Steiner said. "I hope they do this in order to prevent dragging the IDF into a legal battle. I hope the IDF will preserve their honor, and not be seen in the public's eyes – like El Al – as fighters against civil rights."

Dan Yakir, a lawyer specializing in gay rights at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, said this decision will "break open the door" for gays making inheritance and pension claims. "This will encourage homosexuals who are being discriminated against to step forward and claim their rights," he said.

But Moleket MK Yosef Ba-Gad was much less sanguine, saying it was "a black day" that "could lead to the disintegration of the state of

Israel." "It is written in the Torah that the land will vomit us out if we do certain things," Ba-Gad said, "and one of those things is relations between men. The court has given legitimization to something that is against both the Torah, and morality, and which prevents us from peopling the land. I worry about our courts if this is the type of decision it renders."

Ba-Gad said that if there are "people who cannot overcome their inclination, then they should at least be forced to hide it, to be embarrassed. They should not do these things in the open, not be proud of it."

United Torah Judaism MK Aryeh Eliazar said he is "infuriated" at the Supreme Court over the decision, noting that it is another example of the court's breaching the status quo. "This shows the necessity of decreasing the court's authority," he said.

REACTION to yesterday's High Court decision ranged from joy among gay and civil rights activists to scorn from the Knesset's haredi factions and its leading anti-homosexual rights opponent, Rabbi Yosef Ba-Gad.

"For the lesbian and homosexual communities today is a holiday," said Adir Steiner, a member of the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, an umbrella group for homosexuals and lesbians. "We didn't expect the decision to be as far reaching as it was."

Steiner said that as a result of the court's decision, many homosexuals – who in the past did not think of applying for social benefits from their employers – will begin to do so. "As a result of this decision, employers will think twice before denying homosexuals' social rights," he said.

Steiner is engaged in a legal battle with the Defense Ministry over rights to the pension of his former

PA takes over control of health, taxation today

JON IMMANUEL

THE civil administration transfers the departments of Health and Taxation today, completing early empowerment for Palestinians in five spheres of administration outside Gaza and Jericho.

Health and taxation are considered more problematic than education – handed over in August – and welfare and tourism, domains transferred two weeks ago.

The transfer was delayed for a day as Israel waited for confirmation from this week's Brussels donors' conference that funds would be available for the running expenses of the new autonomous departments.

Palestinian Authority tax officials are still establishing a tax department in Gaza and Jericho. Taxation is not expected soon to cover the running expenses of the authority in Gaza and Jericho or in the departments under the

control of the authority in the territories. Therefore donations from abroad must make up the difference.

Health is the most expensive of the departments transferred, with a staff of 2,000 and annual running costs of NIS 90 million, according to the civil administration. It is also vital that health standards are maintained due to the danger of epidemics, such as the brief cholera outbreak in Gaza two weeks ago.

Palestinian officials are still facing resistance against taxation from people who associate it with intrusion into their personal lives. While Palestinians were in control of all but the top administrative jobs in other departments, they resigned from the tax department during the intifada, when taxation was seen as an Is-

raeli tool for suppressing the uprising.

Large advertisements have been placed in the Arabic dailies seeking recruits for training in income tax and Value Added Tax collection, and calling for public cooperation with the tax authorities.

In another development, Nablus Mayor Ghassan Shakaa and Brig.-Gen. Gadi Zohar, head of the civil administration, yesterday met to discuss how much self-policing the Oslo agreement allows municipalities outside the autonomous areas.

For the past two months, Shakaa has been trying to employ what he calls municipal inspectors and what Zohar calls police. They direct traffic, ticket drivers who park in restricted areas, give municipal court orders to con-

tractors who build beyond their permits and check out shopkeepers who sell perishable food beyond its marked expiry date. Because the municipality has no permit from the civil administration to hire inspectors, only a few inspectors have started working on a voluntary basis.

But Zohar said on Israel TV's Arabic service yesterday that the "inspectors" or "municipal guards" are engaged in policing duties which impose on the military authority.

Shakaa said that in his meeting with Zohar he felt the civil administration was confusing the issue of inspectors with night watchmen who would patrol the town at night in cars, communicating through mobile phones.

"The civil administration allowed them in Tulkarm and we want them here. However, we are still waiting for a permit," he said.

Weizman to Egypt, Mubarak due here

Beilin scores Cairo's relations with Israel

BATHSEVA TSUR, DAN IZENBERG and news agencies

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman and his wife Remma will make a state visit to Egypt at the end of the month, it was officially announced yesterday.

Weizman accepted the invitation after it was agreed that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has a long-standing invitation to Israel, would return the visit shortly afterward.

Presidential Bureau Chief Arye Shumer left for Cairo last night to arrange the meetings with Egyptian leaders. During the presidential talks, the question of Israel's soldiers missing in action on Egyptian soil is expected to be raised.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told the Knesset plenum yesterday that there has been no overall improvement in the Egyptian attitude towards Israel since the signing of the peace treaty, and there is a lack of "enthusiasm." Beilin said this was especially true in the cultural sphere, adding that Egyptian intellectuals, journalists and lawyers continued to boycott Israel.

Beilin said that according to the Egyptian government, an Egyptian book on Middle East develop-

ment which did not include Israel had been published privately by Al Ahram. But Beilin described the official government response, which claimed that the book was a private venture, as "an excuse" which "was true in this specific case."

Egypt yesterday urged Israel to quickly withdraw its troops from populated areas of Judea and Samaria to allow Palestinian elections to take place under the Israel-PLO peace accord.

Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said the accord should be implemented "to the spirit and the letter" to prevent further violence in the territories and Palestinian autonomous zones.

"This means that elections in the whole Gaza and the West Bank should be held, preceded by a quick redeployment of Israeli troops... from the Palestinian towns," he told reporters in Cairo.

"There must be a change in the relations between the Israeli authority in the occupied areas and Palestinians, and help must be given to the Palestinian Authority or else there will be disaster throughout the region," Moussa said.



Anna Krakowitz (seated), who was severely burned in April's terror bombing in Afula, celebrates her 40th birthday after being released from the hospital. Standing (from left) are her mother, Dr. Zvia Shapira, a volunteer with the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry; council executive director Ruth Bar-On, and Krakowitz's daughter Irena.

TAU symposium focuses on War of Attrition

ALON PINKAS

EGYPTIAN president Gamal Abdel Nasser's decision to extend the Six Day War into what became the 1969-1971 War of Attrition was not only the result of bad decision-making, but also of Nasserism's failure as a revolution, according to Prof. Shimon Shamir, a former ambassador in Egypt.

He was addressing a Tel Aviv University symposium on the War of Attrition, organized by the Israeli Association for Military History and the Haim Bar-Lev Memorial Association. Bar-Lev, who died earlier this year, was chief of general staff during the war.

Former Mossad head Yitzhak HOFFI said the war was a forgotten war in that soldiers, who for three years bore the burden of maintaining the Suez Canal line, were never given a war decoration.

"Unjustifiable injustice has been done to thousands of fighters, fallen, and wounded," HOFFI said. He added that despite the passage of time, the injustice can be redressed.

BEILIN

(Continued from Page One) cal factor could also be at work – the uncertainty of whether the Labor Party will win the 1996 election. Under the current timetable, final status negotiations only begin in May, 1996, and could easily go into full swing after the scheduled November election.

Beilin made clear that he wants final status talks to be completed by the election. "Nobody knows who will win the next election... The Likud sought to use settlements to create facts... I want to leave behind a fact and not a question mark. I want to leave behind as much peace as possible."

He sharply denied this position concedes that the Oslo process, which he helped conceive, is a failure. "Oslo has been a success. It set five years as the time in which the final status negotiations should be concluded, not when they should begin."

Foreign Ministry officials are privately upset that every terror attack is publicly perceived to be the fault of the Palestinian Authority, while the PA does not even have jurisdiction over those territories.

Beilin indicated that he felt a need to go public with his thoughts since the next phase of the peace process is being debated publicly.

Once final status negotiations commence, Beilin said Israel's guiding principles should be a loosely constructed Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, full demilitarization of territories, changes in the 1967 borders, and Jerusalem remaining Israel's undivided capital.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Beilin does not make policy for the government, but did not want to comment further.

Beilin told reporters that he has not yet been invited to Sunday's cabinet debate. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will be out of the country, and normally Beilin is invited to sit in when Peres is absent or when diplomatic issues are being discussed.

HOMOSEXUAL

(Continued from Page One)

live-in boyfriend, he said.

"It is clear to me that depriving a same-sex partner of this benefit is discriminatory," Barak wrote. "Is separation from a partner of the same sex easier than separation from a partner of the opposite sex?"

Kedmi, in his dissenting opinion, argued that the term "couple" has meant a man and a woman since the dawn of time, and continues to mean this today. A couple is two people capable of bearing children and becoming "one flesh," he said, and this is qualitatively different than two people of the same sex who cannot bear children and become "one flesh."

Society not only accepts this distinction, he added, but it has a "deep interest in maintaining the framework of heterosexual partnerships, which is at the basis of human society's organizational structure."

Therefore, he said, it is not discriminatory to give benefits to all "couples" – married or unmarried – but not to same-sex partnerships, because the distinction is between two qualitatively different things.

In fact, Kedmi said, it would be much more difficult to justify benefits only to spouses, but not to live-in partners of the opposite sex, because both constitute "couples" in the most basic sense, with marriage being merely a formalistic difference.

If, however, society were to reach the conclusion that the homosexual partnership is as basic to it as the heterosexual one, then the legal situation would change, and denying rights to homosexual couples would be discriminatory, he said.

Haim Shapiro contributed to this report.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

BIRTH – Brian and Martine Freeman wish to announce the birth of Alon Green Freeman. Grandparents are Linda and Bertie Zaacs of Victoria, Canada, and Barbara and Harold Freeman of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Knesset

The Knesset building may be visited today, Thursday, December 1, until 12:30 p.m. only.

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In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

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Shiva at the home of the Shani Family, 11 Rehov Hahermon, Rishon LeZion, 03-9698712.

The Family

We regret to announce the death of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother

DR. DAVID KATZ

(Pittsburgh PA and Tel Aviv)

The funeral will be held today at 11 a.m. at Yarkon Cemetery, Tel Aviv. Shiva will be held at 9 Bula St., Tel Aviv

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To Norma Shapiro and family

Our deepest condolences on the passing of your mother

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We are pleased to invite the public to two panel discussions, to be held in the framework of the B'nai B'rith International Leadership Seminar, organized by the B'nai B'rith World Center: "What have you done for me lately?" or "Expectations and Fulfillment in the Israel-Diaspora Equation"

Speakers: Dr. Yossi Beilin, Deputy Foreign Minister; Mr. Yechiel Leket, Acting Chairman, Jewish Agency/WZO; Mr. Yossi Klein Halevy, Senior writer, Jerusalem Report; Dr. Ori Soltes, B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum, Washington, D.C. Moderator: Prof. Gideon Shimoni, Institute for Contemporary Judaism, the Hebrew University

Saturday, December 3 at 8 p.m., at the Kings Hotel, 60 King George St., Jerusalem

"Limits of Dissent: Criticism and Unanimity in the American Jewish Context"

Panelists: Mr. Zelman Shoval – former ambassador to the United States and Likud MK; responsible for foreign relations in the Likud; Prof. Shlomo Avineri – former Director General, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Prof. Gail Golan – Coordinator of Relations with Diaspora Jewish Communities, Peace Now; Mr. David Bar Ilan – Executive Editor, Jerusalem Post

Moderator: Mr. Jeff Rubin, Editor, B'nai B'rith International Jewish Monthly

Wednesday, December 7 at 8 p.m., Kings Hotel, 60 King George St. Jerusalem

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Arutz 7, 711 AM at 12:10 a.m.



Marian Graves, the two millionth tourist to visit Israel this year, is congratulated by Tourism Minister Uzi Baram as she leaves her El Al flight on arrival here yesterday. (Israel Sun)

Tourist No. 2,000,000 for '94 arrives from US

WHEN Marian Graves, the wife of a Baptist pastor from Albany, New York, boarded an El Al plane to fulfill her life's dream of seeing Israel, she never dreamed that she would be met at the airport with music, flowers, and a greeting from Israel's prime minister.

Graves, who came for an eight-day tour together with a group from the Welcome Chapel Baptist Church in Albany, where her husband, Robert, is pastor, was told during the flight that she was designated as Israel's two millionth tourist this year.

"I didn't know what was going on. I'm still in a state of shock," she said, as Tourism Minister Uzi Baram met her on the tarmac.

HAIM SHAPIRO

Inside the terminal, Baram presented Graves with a check for \$1,447, the price of the air fare and tour package. Graves, who is visiting Israel for the first time, said that she would consider her visit a blessing for the rest of her life.

"It is something you don't have time to do when you're busy raising a family," said Graves, who has six children, aged 32 to 43.

Speaking at the ceremony, Rabin welcomed her and said she was an example to American Jews, only 11 percent had visited Israel.

"The Holy Land is a place where everyone should come and, according to his religious be-

lief, see the shrines of the Bible, the New Testament, or the Koran, as well as the return to Zion, which is spoken of in the Bible," Rabin said.

Tourism, he added, was a unique opportunity to show the world that Israel was not as it appeared on television and in the media.

"I hope that in the future there will be a tourism package of Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria as well," Rabin said.

Baram also referred to the possibility of visiting Arab lands and said that with the development of Moslem tourism, agents had already asked about the possibility of selling tour packages including Jerusalem, Mecca and Medina.

'Simplified licensing would lower drug prices'

EVELYN GORDON

THE price of imported medicines could be significantly reduced if the Health Ministry would simplify its licensing procedures, a ministry representative told a subcommittee of the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

The consumer affairs subcommittee was discussing State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's report on drug prices. Ben-Porat found that the Health Ministry permits importers to charge three as much for drugs as the ministry pays to buy them for government hospitals, and sometimes even more.

Representatives of the pharmaceuticals and the health funds told the subcommittee that the same medicine is often sold by different vendors at prices which differ by hundreds of percent. The pharmaceuticals usually pay many times more than the ministry or the health funds for the same medicines.

Such price differentials are usually the result of limited competition. Ben-Porat's report cited the exclusive 20-year licenses given to patented drugs as one of the main factors impeding competition.

Batya Haran, deputy director of the Health Ministry's pharmacy

division, told the committee that drug prices could be significantly reduced if the ministry issued general import licenses for given medicines, instead of requiring each importer to apply for a license for each medicine he imports.

On the other hand, she said, such a system would make it more difficult to supervise the quality of imported medicines.

Subcommittee chairman Ra'anana Cohen (Labor) said that implementation of the National Health Law would worsen the already severe problem of wildly overpriced drugs, because the law reduces the number of medicines covered by the health funds. As a result, more people will be paying full price for their medicines.

He asked the ministry to use its authority to guarantee reasonable prices for all drugs for ordinary consumers, who lack bargaining power. The fact that the ministry itself obtains drugs much more cheaply than other consumers do, he said, shows that the high prices being charged ordinary people are unjustified.

Judy Siegel adds

Kupat Holim Clalit announced yesterday that the fee for medications will be raised today from NIS 4.50 per unit to NIS 5; only young members aged 16 to 25 who are part of the health fund's Tsabar program will pay NIS 4 for medications. However, the charge for 130 basic drugs that cost NIS 3 until now will cost NIS 4.

Chronically ill members will pay no more than NIS 120 a month for their medications; those who subsidize on minimal pensions will pay no more than NIS 85 monthly.

Starting today, Kupat Holim Clalit members will have to pay NIS 10 for a referral to any hospital outpatient clinics; until now there was no charge. The health fund spokesman, David Tager, said yesterday that Clalit was bound by the Knesset finance committee, which approved its recovery plan Tuesday, to levy the charge.

However, the health fund will not require patients to pay specialists in the clinics NIS 5 for the first visit each quarter; this fee has been in effect for several months, but will not be continued under the new national health insurance.

Gov't aid to Clalit conditional on management change

EVELYN GORDON

more efficient management. The committee's resolution is aimed at ensuring this decision is implemented.

However, the resolution would not cut off the approximately NIS 2 billion in government funding specifically earmarked for the repayment of accumulated debts, since cutting off this money, whose rate of transfer will be determined by a court-supervised arrangement with the

fund's creditors, would hurt the creditors rather than the Histadrut. Thus, the decision would affect only about NIS 1 billion worth of funding.

Gal had intended to pass this resolution on Tuesday, when the committee approved the Kupat Holim recovery program. However, in the confusion surrounding the committee's feverish attempts to broker a compromise between Shekem workers and the government, he forgot to bring it to a vote.

100 Israelis get Aids each year, Knesset panel told

DAN IZENBERG

THE number of Israelis struck by AIDS has remained constant at 100 per year over the past few years. Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai told a special meeting of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women and the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee.

The meeting was held to mark International AIDS Day, which is being observed today. Ben-Ishai, head of the AIDS Steering Committee, said there are 307 AIDS victims currently living in Israel and an estimated 2,000-2,500 who are HIV positive. Most of those who develop AIDS are post compulsory military service age. The proportion of female AIDS victims has increased from 11 percent in 1986 to 32 percent in 1994. The proportion of heterosexuals versus homosexuals has also increased.

According to Ben-Ishai, the proportion of female AIDS victims in the world has risen from 30 percent in the 1980s to 50 percent today. During the next six years, the number of AIDS victims in the world is expected to almost double, from 17 to 30 million. Ten million of them will be Asians.

Benny Temkin (Meretz) urged minors to take AIDS tests. Last week, Temkin won approval in preliminary reading for a bill abolishing the requirement for parental consent for minors wishing to be tested for AIDS.

Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) was due to submit a bill in preliminary reading yesterday, making it illegal to fire AIDS victims from their jobs or dismiss them from school.

Meanwhile, the ministerial legislation committee, headed by Justice Minister David Liba'i, announced yesterday that it had decided to oppose a bill which would require all health workers, including dentists, to undergo annual AIDS testing and medical checkups.

Labor MK Yoram Lass, who sponsored the legislation, said there have been some AIDS cases among health workers, and the risk to patients outweighed the workers' right to privacy.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh opposes the bill on the grounds it has no justification. He said the committee was not convinced that it was necessary to require all health workers to take an AIDS test.

Another Beersheba city treasurer resigns

AMIR ROZENBLIT

AFTER only a month-and-a-half in the job, Beersheba Municipality treasurer David Rubin quit this week effective December 7, making him the fourth Beersheba treasurer to resign in recent years.

Rubin, 38, was formerly the treasurer of the Ofakim Local Council. In September, soon after he took office, the Interior Ministry appointed accountant Shlomo Kramer as external comptroller for the municipality, because of the city's poor financial situation.

The city's operating deficit is believed to be more than NIS 400 million, and according to Interior Ministry orders, all municipality financial operations must be approved and signed by Kramer.

Working under Kramer's supervision very much limited Rubin's ability to function. He felt as if his job had been emptied of any content and therefore decided to resign.

"There was interference of poli-

ticians in all fields, including the financial sphere," Kramer said, "but I was able to manage with that. The problem was that I had to deal with them and the external comptroller."

"It's certainly legitimate for the Interior Ministry to appoint an external comptroller, especially in the current situation, but the fact is that working with him around emptied my job of any meaning."

"I agree that under the municipality's current situation, drastic steps are necessary, the question is how I as treasurer can integrate into this system. It just wasn't right for me, as a professional in this field."

Beersheba Municipality sources said Rubin had run into problems almost immediately upon taking the job, including run-ins with staff over new ideas he wanted to implement. He plans to return to Ofakim where he will serve as the managing director and treasurer of the local council.

Arrow fire-control radar installed

ALON PINKAS

ELTA, a subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries, completed the construction and installation of the fire-control radar of the Arrow anti-missile system.

A statement issued by the Defense Ministry said that the fire-control radar is designed to detect incoming missiles and direct the Arrow at a certain point during its descent. The radar, which is the largest and most sophisticated developed in Israel, was made by Elta and financed entirely by the Defense Ministry.

The radar will be integrated into the Arrow-2 development program after it undergoes a series of rigorous testing and adjustments. IAI Managing Director Moshe Keret, who is also the chairman of the Elta board, said the radar is an important component of a vital project.

Israelis to be accepted for liver transplants in France

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh and French Health Minister Simone Weil last night signed a two-year agreement in Paris for cooperation in liver transplantation. According to the unprecedented new agreement, Israelis will be accepted for a liver transplant in France if they suffer from liver failure due to severe hepatitis or if a liver transplant they underwent here failed.

In the past, Israelis needing a liver transplant were accepted in France, but this was later halted for a number of reasons, including the failure of some patients to pay hospital bills and Israel's "deficit" at the Eurotransplant organ bank.

Other European countries still do not accept Israelis for transplant, even if they have the necessary money, because organs are set aside for their own nationals. Israeli hospitals know how to transplant livers, but the number of available

organs here is severely limited.

The Health Ministry called the accord a "breakthrough" in organ transplantation, because for the first time, it states in writing when Israelis may undergo an organ transplant in another country. There are some 70 people here waiting for a liver transplant.

Under the national health insurance system that is to go into effect in January, the health funds will pay for their members' medical treatment abroad if it is not available in Israel and the patient's life is in danger.

The accord is part of the general framework agreement signed two years ago by the foreign ministers of the two countries for joint work in the field of health. The liver-transplant agreement will also make possible exchanges of experts, information and activities to boost public awareness of the need to donate organs.

Shohat: Poor to be compensated for proposed cut in COL

DAN IZENBERG

THE nation's poor will receive special compensation so as not to suffer from the government proposal to cut salaried workers' cost-of-living adjustments by two percent, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday.

Shohat was replying to a motion by Likud MK Avraham Hirschson, who charged that the Histadrut and the government were cutting deals behind the workers' backs.

Hirschson was referring to negotiations taking place between the government, the private sector and the Histadrut on a new cost-of-living adjustment arrangement.

The treasury has proposed reducing the semi-annual wage erosion compensation payment by 2

percent. In return, it has offered to reduce the health tax, which is to go into effect at the beginning of 1995, together with the implementation of the National Health Insurance Law, by 1.4%.

Earlier this week, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said Shohat promised her the treasury would grant special compensation of 0.6% to low income earners, to make up the difference between the cost-of-living payment loss and the health tax gain.

Shohat told the Knesset the proposal to cut the cost-of-living adjustment was aimed at reducing the cost of local industrial exports so that they could compete more easily on the international market.

Relations between Beilin, Jewish Agency improving

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE rift between Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and Jewish Agency leaders is narrowing, following agreement between the two sides on the need to bring Diaspora Jewish youth to Israel and to make changes in organized Zionism.

At yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Aliya Committee, Beilin and Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Yehiel Leket agreed to continue their dialogue and to bring concrete proposals to the committee in a few weeks' time.

Beilin dropped a bombshell at the President's Dialogue with the Diaspora in the summer, when he proposed disbanding the existing framework of the Jewish Agency in favor of a "new, more democratic mass organization," which he called Beit Yisrael. Last month, relations soured further

when Beilin was not invited to appear before the agency's General Assembly.

But yesterday, both sides were in a conciliatory mood.

Beilin spoke merely of the need for a serious forum for systematic discussions on problems facing world Jewry in a suitable democratic framework.

"The Jewish people are disappearing before our eyes. With the current rate of assimilation, will we have any Jewish interlocutors left abroad in 50 years?" he asked.

He reiterated that it is imperative to give all Jewish youth abroad a free trip to experience Israel first hand.

Beilin also proposed turning the Israel Bonds mechanism into an investment fund, utilizing the ex-

perience of the existing frameworks. Earlier this week, Keren Hayesod chairman Shlomo Hillel had warned of a drop off in fundraising abroad, partly because of Beilin's proposals.

Leket welcomed the suggestion to set up a pilot project in one American community to bring 1,000 Jewish youth to Israel in the summer. However, he could not agree to Beilin's proposal to give a free trip to every Jewish child.

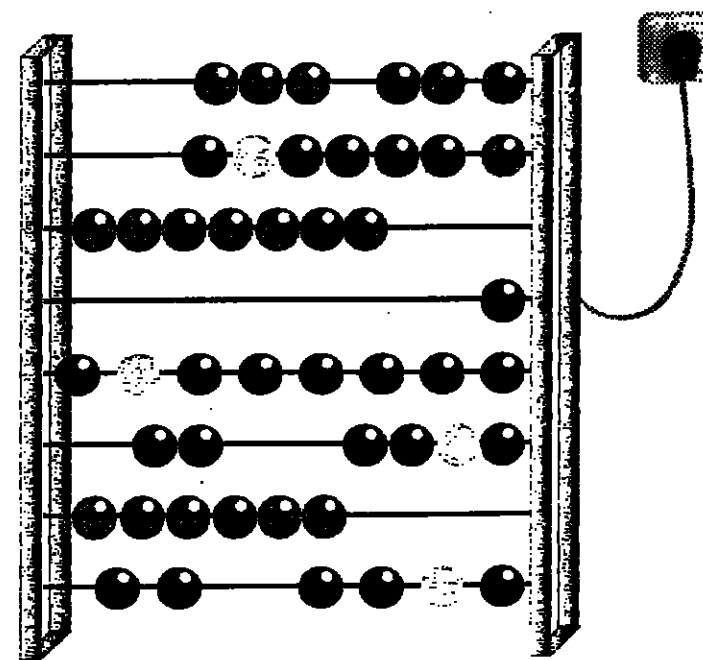
Leket said he could accept Beilin's proposal for a Beit Yisrael framework, which would resemble other Jewish mass organizations "such as B'nai B'rith," but not replace the World Zionist Organization. "The Jewish Agency is not a sacred cow. But there can't be any new frameworks before we have worked out future partnerships," Leket said.

Illegal phone company raided

COMMUNICATIONS Ministry inspectors yesterday raided a private home in Jerusalem that was serving as an illegal expeditor of overseas dialing. The apartment, whose residents set up a company called Silicontel, charged reduced prices without receiving authorization.

Under the existing law, only Bezek may provide overseas dialing (although this will change when a private company wins a public tender). Providing the service illegally is a crime. The ministry instructed Bezek to cut off the company's lines.

In previous cases, such fly-by-night companies rent apartments, order numerous lines and then disappear before they pay Bezek's bills.



Your New Electricity Bill - Easier to Read... and to Comprehend

As part of its efforts to improve customer service, the Israel Electric Corporation has designed a new electricity bill, which is clearer and easier to understand. The new bills will contain detailed information on electricity consumption and other useful data:

phone numbers to clarify bills, receive information on consumer subjects, report electricity faults, and other services. The Corporation has started mailing the new bills, enclosed in new special envelopes, together with an information pamphlet.

Tuvia Cohen (Haaretz)

האגודה החדשה
חברת החשמל
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Fire sweeps through Achille Lauro

Two die, almost 1,000 rescued off Somalia

KEITH WEIR
ROME

RESCUE vessels plucked nearly 1,000 passengers and crew from life rafts in the Indian Ocean, and two people were killed when fire swept through the ill-fated Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro off Somalia yesterday.

StarLauro, the Naples-based owners of the luxury liner, said that Gerhard Szimke, a 68-year-old German who suffered a heart attack, was one of the victims and the other was a Briton.

The company said eight people had been injured in the fire on the vessel, which made headlines around the world in 1985 when it was hijacked by Palestinian terrorists.

The Italian coastguard said fire broke out in the engine room and spread quickly throughout the \$30 million liner. A British survivor said most passengers were enjoying themselves at a black-tie ball when the blaze began.

Three ships, the Panamanian-registered tanker Hawaiian King, the Liberian bulk oil carrier Bardu and the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier Leira picked up the 572 passengers and 400 crew from life rafts, coastguard officials said.

StarLauro said the 572 passengers included 150 Germans, 92 Britons, 90 Dutch, 12 Italians, eight Swiss, two Israelis, two French and two Belgians.

Company chairman Nicola Cocchia told reporters about 100 of the crew had stayed on board the stricken liner to try to beat the blaze but were pulled off around 1000 GMT.

"The most difficult moment has passed. Everyone is off. The order to abandon ship came at 11 a.m."

Cocchia said.

Most passengers on board were at the black-tie ball when the ship caught fire, a British survivor said.

Tony Webb told the *London Evening Standard* that passengers in evening suits or dressing gowns gathered on the deck and waited almost seven hours while the ship listed violently.

"A lot of the crew were in the engine room trying to put out the fire. Then at about 8 a.m. the captain said the fire was too strong and we would have to abandon ship," said Webb, who was rescued with his wife and two-year-old son.

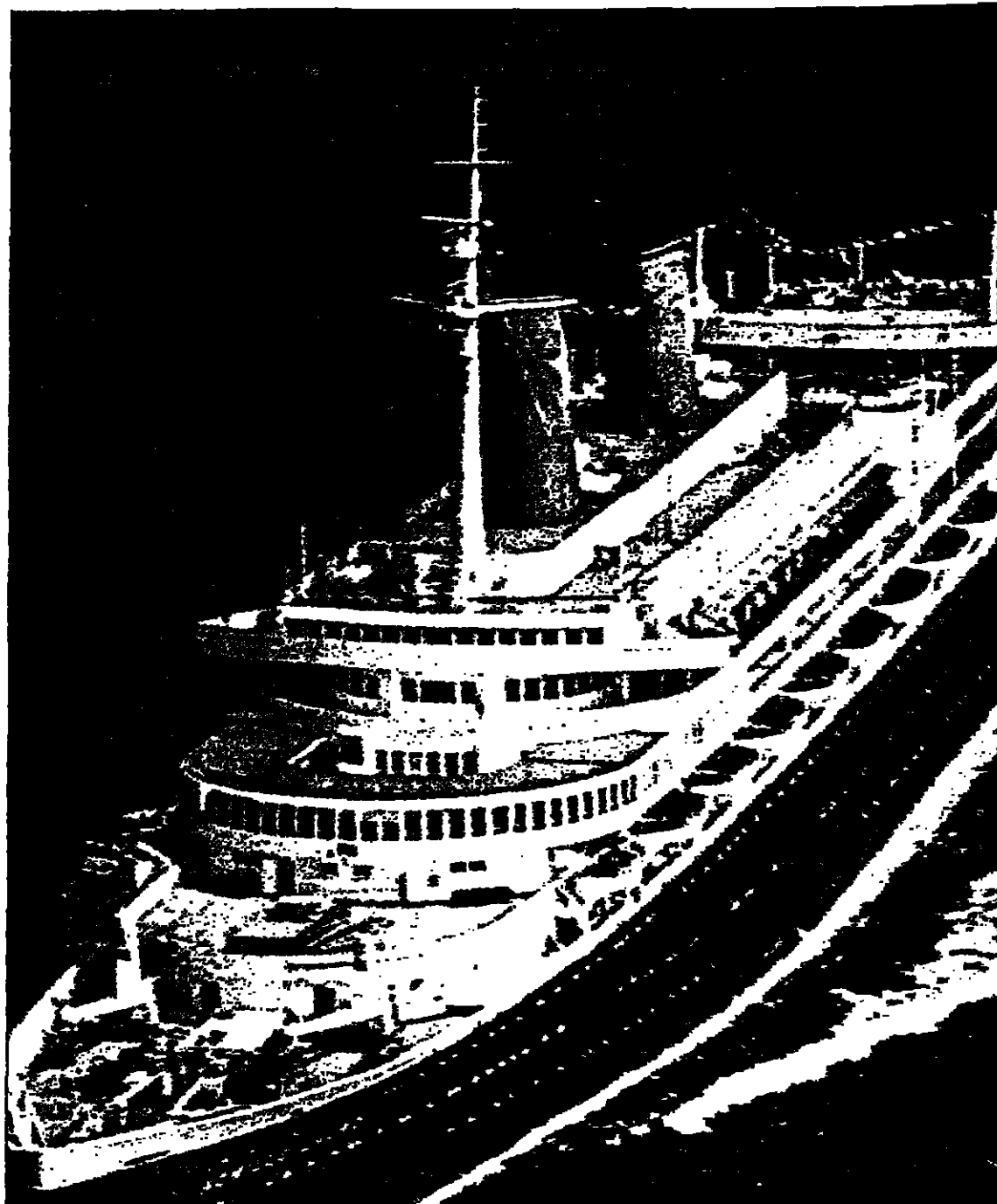
StarLauro said that it did not suspect foul play, adding it had beefed up security since the 1985 hijacking, using former members of the Mossad.

Four Palestinian terrorists of the renegade Abu Abbas faction of the PLO seized the Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean nine years ago.

An elderly, wheelchair-bound Jewish-American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, was killed and his body thrown overboard in an incident that prompted world outrage.

The 23,478-tonne Achille Lauro was built in 1947 and refitted after the 1985 hijack.

The ship is named after the original owner of the shipping line, the late Naples maritime magnate Achille Lauro, who was mayor of the city in the 1950s. Legend has it that he gave voters one free shoe before elections and the other after.



The ill-fated cruise liner Achille Lauro.

(Reuters)

Boutros-Ghali peace mission may end prematurely

SARAJEVO (AP) - UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said yesterday that he might have to end the peace-keeping mission in Bosnia if the president rejected a ceasefire and Serbs wouldn't meet with him.

Boutros-Ghali said both sides have to show a willingness to negotiate and work with UN peacekeepers and aid workers who have helped feed hundreds of thousands of people throughout the 31-month-long war.

"My message to them is that unless they do this, it will become impossible for me to persuade the Security Council to keep UNPROFOR here," Boutros-Ghali said during a brief visit.

In failing to meet him, Boutros-Ghali said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic "has done his people a great disservice."

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told Boutros-Ghali that Bosnia would negotiate only when Serbs accepted a plan that they repeatedly have rejected and that it was ready for a temporary ceasefire on its own terms.

Sources said Karadzic did not want to travel to the Sarajevo airport to meet Boutros-Ghali, and that the secretary-general would not go to Serb-held Lukavica south of the city.

Izetbegovic's comments indicated that the Bosnian government was in no mood for compromise, either.

After meeting Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Izetbegovic said, "We are ready for negotiations when the Serb side says yes to the 'contact group' plan."

The international community's contact - diplomats from the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany - devised a plan that would require the Serbs to reduce their holdings in Bosnia from 70 percent to 49 percent.

The Bosnian government accepted the plan, but the Bosnian Serbs repeatedly have rejected it.

Izetbegovic reiterated that the Bosnian government has a proposal for a three-month ceasefire on the table. The Serbs are seeking something more permanent.

With NATO air strikes clearly unable to deter the Serbs and the UN peacekeeping mission in a shambles, senior Western officials said Tuesday that the Bosnian Serbs might be offered ties with Serb-led Yugoslavia that they long have desired.

That has been missing from previous peace plans.

Bosnian government officials said the idea of Serb ties with Yugoslavia did not come up directly in the talks.

In brief remarks, Boutros-Ghali termed the meeting with Izetbegovic "positive."

GATT supporters focus on Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) - With a sweeping 124-nation trade accord approved by the House of Representatives, the Clinton administration focused on shoring up support in the Senate, which began debating the pact yesterday.

"This is it. The end of the road. Tomorrow, the Senate will take the most important trade vote in this country in 60 years," Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told business executives preparing to lobby senators.

Bentsen called Tuesday's House vote "a great bipartisan boost." But, he said, "it isn't a slam dunk [sure shot] and I'm going to be working this every step of the way."

Earlier, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said he was more optimistic about passage. "I thought at first it might be close, but I'm now thinking it'll be a pretty substantial margin," he said on television.

Outgoing Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell opened a scheduled 20 hours of debate, with a vote set for today.

"This historic agreement is essential to our economic future," he said. "It will create new opportuni-

ties for American businesses and farmers to compete and sell more in foreign markets. It will benefit American consumers by lowering tariffs that increase the purchase price of consumer goods."

GATT supporters were unwilling to declare in advance that they had secured the 60 votes needed to clear a key procedural obstacle, but minutes before the Senate came to order, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan told reporters, "It's firming up by the hour."

The House ended four hours of sometimes impassioned, sometimes perfunctory debate Tuesday by approving, 288-146, a vast expansion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The margin of victory represented a victory for Clinton, who had worked the telephone throughout the day talking to undecided lawmakers, and it was the first test after the November 8 election of whether the White House and Republicans can cooperate after Republicans take control of Congress in January.

"The eyes of the world are now on the United States Senate," Clinton declared.

Second air raid reported in Chechnya; civilians evacuating

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - Tensions were high in the Chechen capital of Grozny yesterday as the deadline of a Russian ultimatum neared and a second air raid in two days targeted an airport on the outskirts of the city.

Many Grozny residents were packing up and evacuating the center of the capital.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has warned Chechens to disarm and release all of their prisoners by this morning or risk direct Russian intervention in their Caucasus Mountain republic.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who declared his republic's independence from Moscow in 1991, maintains that Russia is already directly involved in Chechnya's civil war and sent the jets.

Moscow, which openly backs the opposition to Dudayev, denies providing military assistance. It says mercenaries are fighting on both sides.

"Quick, go home!" a telephone operator told waiting customers at a downtown post office after the roar of jets was heard

yesterday afternoon. Several on-lookers reported seeing two jets fly over.

Four jet trainers at a military airport in the Khankala district, about 15 kilometers east of Grozny, were hit, airport commander Elmizayev Akhmadov said. The planes were smoldering on the tarmac last night.

Akhmadov said he saw four jets in the attack yesterday, and there were no casualties. He said the military airport also was attacked Tuesday, in addition to Grozny's civilian airport, and that an airport guard was killed.

Spiritual leader of world's Shi'ite Moslems dies

NICOSIA (AP) - Iran and Shi'ite Moslems around the world mourned the death of their spiritual leader amid fears that Tehran's efforts to impose a successor would split the Islamic minority sect.

Thousands of black flags draped Tehran and Koranic chants echoed from loudspeakers in every mosque after word spread of Grand Ayatollah Ali Araki's death late Tuesday.

Iranian officials and the state-run media launched a campaign to name Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's spiritual leader, as Araki's successor.

Although the Tehran government has no official say in the matter, Iran has indicated that the next supreme leader, or "marja ala," must be an Iranian, which is likely to be opposed by Shi'ites in Iraq and other parts of the world.

The head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi, said in a message read on the state-run television that Khamenei had all the qualifications to lead the Shi'ites.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Shi'ites in the United States had sent a message supporting Khamenei as Araki's successor.

Inside the Shi'ite hierarchy, Khamenei does not rank very high. He has only been an ayatollah for five years and does not have the qualifications to be regarded as a grand ayatollah, the sect's top rank.

Still, Iran, which sees itself as a beacon for the Islamic world, has been keen to promote him as the Shi'ite sect's leader.

In doing so, it is trying to change

the system for selecting a successor, traditionally done by consensus among theologians at the top Shi'ite seminaries in Qom, Iran, and Najaf, Iraq.

The marja ala traditionally has been selected from the grand ayatollahs at these centers. At present, there are at least five of them.

Araki was the last in a line of elderly spiritual guides who dominated Shi'ite theology for the past



Grand Ayatollah Ali Araki (AP)

century and stayed clear of politics. Khamenei is directly involved in the day-to-day running of the country, and regularly issues proclamations on politics and religion.

Shi'ites, who make up about 10 percent of the world's one billion Moslems, are the predominant sect in Iran and the majority in Iraq, Iran's historic foe, and Azerbaijan. Small numbers also exist throughout the Moslem world.

British firm to launch stronger, thinner condom

LONDON (Reuters) - London International Group said yesterday it is launching the first polyurethane male condom - thinner and stronger than traditional latex sheaths and offering "greatly improved sensitivity."

The "Avanti" condom will initially go on sale only in the United States but, depending on sales, could be launched in Japan in mid-

1995. The company called it the first major advance in male condom material technology in 70 years. It had proved in tests to be an effective barrier to sperm and to viruses smaller than HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Female condoms are already made from polyurethane.

'Oldest woman in US' dies

WILMINGTON, North Carolina (Reuters) - Susie Brunson, who may have been the oldest person in the United States, died at age 123 in Wilmington, North Carolina, her daughter said yesterday.

Brunson, who died on Tuesday, was born in 1871. She left behind seven grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, 15 great-great grandchildren and 10 great-great-great grandchildren, her daughter said.

NOTICE

Ahrayut Foreign Residents - Mutual Fund (hereunder (the "Fund"))

Notice regarding the Winding Up of the Fund, pursuant to Para. 103 (2) of the Joint Trustee Investments Law 1994

Notice is given, pursuant to Para. 103 (2) of the Joint Trustee Investments Law 1994, and Paras. 34 (2) and 35 regarding liquidation of the Fund, that, as prescribed in Para. 12.1.1 of the Fund prospectus, which was published on December 29, 1993, a joint decision was made on October 25, 1994, by the Fund Trustee and the Fund Manager to wind up the Fund. The winding-up procedure will start on January 30, 1995. When the winding-up of the Fund begins, a start will be made on realizing the Fund's assets as cash. This will be done in a manner and over a period to be decided by the Fund Liquidator, so as to safeguard the rights of the holders of units of the Fund, and to this end he may delay the realizing of part or all the assets of the Fund.

The monies received in the realizing of the assets of the Fund, less the winding-up expenses and other payments the Fund makes will be distributed to the holders of units, in proportion to the number of units they hold. Distribution will be made in one payment or a number of payments, in a manner, and at times to be decided by the Fund Liquidator. All payments will be made, by reference to the Fund Manager's list of unit holders.

If intermediate payments are made, a schedule of these payments will be drawn up by the Manager, and the information passed to the Trustee. Commission on the sale of the assets of the Fund will be deducted from the assets.

After the winding-up, the Fund's books will be kept for the Fund Manager by David Levy Adv., 18 Rehov Bodenheimer, Tel Aviv. The cost of winding-up the Fund will be borne by the Fund Manager, and will not be deducted from the Fund's assets. The Fund Manager will, in an appropriate way, give unit holders notice of the winding-up of the Fund. This notice will include the reason for liquidating the Fund, the date on which the winding-up goes into effect, the name of the liquidator, and the location at which the Fund's books will be kept after liquidation. The Fund Trustee and the Fund Manager will continue to meet their obligations, during changes that must be made while the Fund is being liquidated by the Fund Manager.

Units of the Fund will not be sold or redeemed, from the start of the liquidation of the Fund on the date given above, except for the redemption of the Fund's assets in the winding-up.

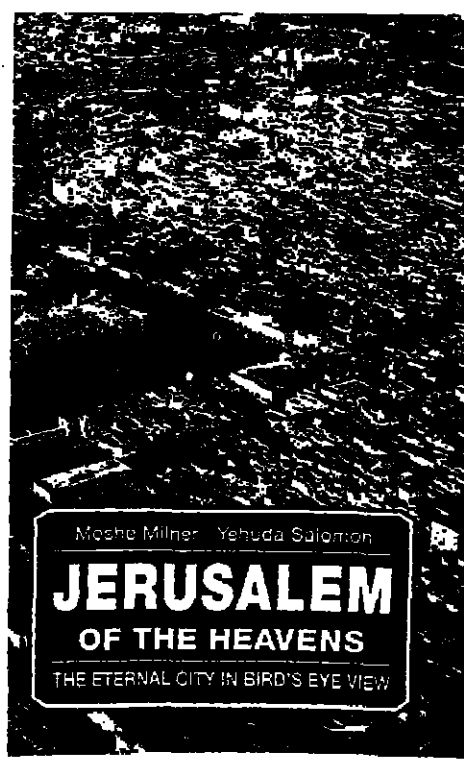
When all the Fund's assets have been realized, and the cash, less the winding-up and other expenses, distributed to unit holders in proportion to their holdings, the Fund Manager will report to the Registrar of Companies and the Securities Authority on the realizing of the Fund's assets, the expenses incurred in the winding-up, and the distribution of the cash to the unit holders, and inform him of the expiration of the Fund's agreement.

Fund Manager: Ahrayut Trustee Funds Management Co. (1987) Ltd.

Trustee: Union Bank Trustee Company Ltd.

Fund Liquidator: Ahrayut Mutual Funds Management Company (1987) Ltd., represented by David Levy Adv.

The Eternal City in Bird's Eye View



Moshe Milner and Yehuda Salomon set out to discover the most distinctive sites and photograph angles in Jerusalem. Every photograph, presented in brilliant color, is taken from the air or an elevated vantage point, showing us the entire city from its earliest beginnings till the present day. An intimate look at the flair, color and diversity of the Holy City and its people. Large format, hardcover, 192 pp. Alfa.

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firm to launch
thinner condom

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bird's Eye View

Seductive aroma of the Orient

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

CALVIN Klein's Obsession has been around for a long time. The fragrance was first launched in 1985, but the company took nearly a decade to bring it here.

For the past month, Obsession has been intensively promoted in this country.

Its arrival at this time could be attributed to the growing popularity of citrus-based perfumes, most notably Kenzo.

Infused with jasmine, sandalwood and musk, in addition to mandarin and orange blossom, Obsession initially has an overly sweet scent, which in a few minutes settles into an aroma seductively reminiscent of the Orient.

There are subtle sensual differences between Obsession for women and Obsession for men, but the latter is more economical.

For women, a 7.5-ml. bottle of concentrated perfume retails for NIS 280, while 50 ml. of eau de parfum spray is priced at NIS 135, going up to NIS 197 for 100 ml. Men's eau de toilette spray costs NIS 154 for 125 ml., the same amount of aftershave is NIS 129.

For the budget conscious, an option is Barbara Wolf's Apolo range of toiletries for men.

Pleasantly scented but much milder than Obsession, the Apolo series contains vitamin E, widely touted as nourishing for the skin.

Eau de toilette costs NIS 82.95 for 100 ml.; 100 ml. of aftershave is NIS 79, while 200 ml. of spray deodorant sells for NIS 22.15.

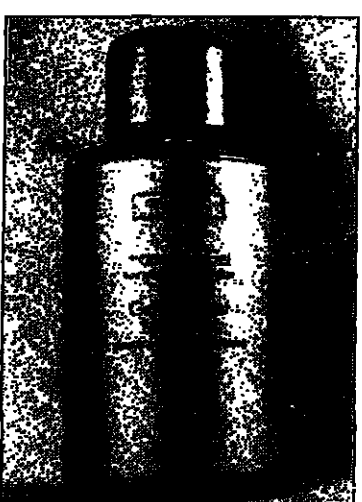
Following the success last year of Dior Svelte Body Refining Gel, the Christian Dior Laboratories have come up with Dior Svelte Exfoliating Body Toner and Vitalizing Body Moisturizer.

What the toner purports to do is eliminate uneven dead cells which accumulate on the surface of the epidermis in the form of flaking skin, thereby facilitating faster cellular renewal. The moisturizer contributes to skin hydration and also contains protective vitamin E.

All 200 ml. Dior Svelte products sell for NIS 135.

Vitamin E is also featured in the Jade Foaming Gel formula. This slightly scented skin cleanser and makeup remover can be safely used on sensitive skin, leaving the face feeling fresh and smooth. The price for 200 ml. is NIS 29.10.

Danya Cosmetics, which produces Jade, recently released a junior line, Younggirl, intended as an adolescent's introduction to the intricacies of makeup. The comprehensive range is low priced: A



(from top) Budget-hunters may have a less easy time with 'Obsession' for women than 'Apolo' for men; Jade Foaming Gel is notable for its Vitamin E.

bottle of nail enamel, for instance, costs NIS 10.90.

Los Angeles-based Ferity, which has made a big business of creating cosmetics for the under-20s, is now available here.

The simulated crayon packaging makes Ferity products instantly recognizable. One of the more unusual items, the NIS 29.75 Scent Coater, whose fragrance range emulates 12 of the most popular perfumes.

This scent, however, is applied not to body pulses but to nails, buttons, earrings and even belts and shoe buckles.

OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA MEISELS

SOME products are prized for what they don't contain rather than what they do. "Baldies," short for Bavarian Baldies Pretzels, are unsalted, though they don't claim to be salt-free or even low in sodium. But the amount of sodium (the main element of table salt) is a mere 125 milligrams per 100 grams. By comparison, their heavily salted companion product, Bavarian Dutch-Style Pretzels, contain a whopping 1,765 mg. of sodium per 100 gr. It's great for people who really love salt.

Both are American products from Anderson, and newly imported by Wolf Brothers of Bnei Brak, best known as the makers of Matzo Aviv. The unsalted Baldies tasted very bland at first bite, but the flavor grew on me as I munched. They are crunchy, thick and twisted.

The Hebrew labeling states "l'lo yosef melah" (no salt added), which means that the only salt content is what occurs naturally in the various ingredients. In order to be designated "salt-free" in Israel, a foodstuff must contain less than 0.5 mg. of salt.

The terms "low salt" and "low sodium" apply to foods with less than 100 mg. per 100 gr. - and Baldies do not qualify. To avoid any misunderstanding, the original English label states clearly, "This is not a sodium-free food."

By nature, pretzels are quite low in fat and contain no cholesterol. Both the salted and unsalted Anderson pretzels contain three grams of fat per 100 grams. Low fat, under Israeli standards, means a maximum of two grams per 100.

The Anderson pretzels carry "O-U parve" kashrut certification. Both types retail here for NIS 8.80 per 400-gram box. They made their debut at the current American Food Festival of Super-Sol/Hypercol, but are also becoming available on a regular basis at other chains and private shops.

MANY PEOPLE prefer their food without monosodium glutamate (MSG).

The Food Service Administration (Sherut Hamazon) in the Health Ministry does not consider MSG to be harmful except to those individuals particularly sensitive to it. A ministry source suggests that asthmatics seek their doctor's advice on MSG.

Sunfrost's frozen soups, which contain no MSG at all, are now available in four additional varieties: broccoli, cauliflower, bean and chicken-flavor. All are parve, and all have a homemade taste. The other flavors are corn, pea, Chinese, onion, tomato, mushroom, minestrone and vegetable.

The soups come in a bilingually



(Clockwise from upper left): Telma's '10x10' instant soups now come with a new twist: Besides having only 10 calories each, there are two meat flavors with real meat; Häagen-Dazs makes an appearance at Hypercol/Super-Sol's American Food Festival; Anderson Bavarian pretzels come in two versions - 'Dutch-Style' (with salt) and 'bald' (unsalted).

labeled box, containing two separate frozen packets, each enough for three portions. You add a half-liter of water, bring to a boil and simmer for five minutes.

A box retails for NIS 6.98, which means NIS 1.16 per bowl.

This corresponds to the prices of high-quality dehydrated soups, among them Osem's Bayit Ham ("warm home") packaged line which states "no monosodium glutamate added." Vita's instant Marak Achshav ("Soup Now") says the same. This indicates there is some MSG within the various ingredients, or they would claim "no MSG" as the Sunfrost labels do. All these soups are without cholesterol, preservatives or food colorings.

TELMA'S INSTANT soups labeled "10 x 10" contain both salt and MSG, but almost no calories. There are 10 single-serving packets in a box, and each serving has a mere 10 calories. By comparison, Osem's Minute Soup ("Rega Ham") has close to 100 calories per serving; a cup of its Minute Soup with Croutons has more than 100. Similarly, Telma's Cup of Soup has around 90 calories per portion.

To make up for its lack of calories, Telma's 10 x 10 is enriched with added vitamins and minerals. Telma uses a technology called encapsulation, which helps preserve the nutritional value of minerals and vitamins during the cooking process.

Telma's low-calorie instant soups come in five varieties: onion, tomato, chicken flavor (parve), chicken and beef. The latter two are "kasher for meat dishes only."

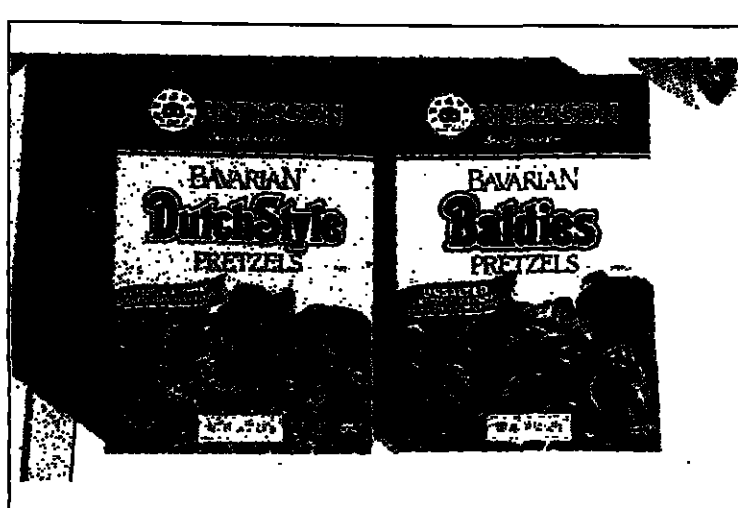
Telma would do its customers a service by labeling the two meat soups with a distinctive color, such as red, to avoid confusion with the three which are parve.

The 10 x 10 soups are not only

low-calorie, but low-cost. A box with 10 portions (four grams each) is only NIS 2.80, or 28 agorot per cup. You simply add 180 ml. of boiling water.

TIVALL HAS just added carrot to its line of vegetable-based schnitzels. The carrot content is about 80 percent of the total ingredients.

This product is particularly rich in beta carotene, which the body converts to valuable Vitamin A. The carrot imparts not only a bright orange color to this schnitzel, but a slightly sweet flavor, which I found a pleasant change from other Tivall schnitzels. The price is NIS 18.95 for 12 portions (750 grams).



cream sandwiches, eight to a package, for NIS 13.95. Each sandwich weighs 50 grams and contains about 100 calories.

HÄAGEN-DAZS ice cream takes pride in using only natural ingredients, flavorings and colorings, without preservatives or stabilizers. It is a rich dairy ice cream, American but with worldwide brand recognition and franchise distribution.

Häagen-Dazs imported from France is currently on sale during the American Food Festival of Super-Sol/Hypercol.

The Super-Sol management assures me it is a "kashrut certification" that the Häagen-Dazs imports have the O-U kashrut approval of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of

America, even though I could not find a visible O-U on the box or on the superimposed Hebrew label.

The famous brand is available here in vanilla, coffee, strawberry, Belgian chocolate, caramel, cappuccino, vanilla with almonds, Dark Vanilla, Cookies & Cream, and Macadamia Nut Brittle, at NIS 17.90 for a 500 ml. box. There are also Häagen-Dazs ice-cream bars, three in a carton for NIS 18.90.

The appearance of Häagen-Dazs at the festival is only an appetizer for Israeli consumers. The brand is expected to make its formal debut here in spring, with the opening of the first Häagen-Dazs ice cream parlor.

At a later stage, Häagen-Dazs will be sold on a regular basis in local supermarkets.

Road-safety advocates hurt the cause by pushing laws that won't work

MOTERING
JOEL GORDIN

I regularly receive mail from a number of organizations aimed at improving road safety. One of them, called Metuna, seems to be made up of English-speakers and has an obsession with the speed limit; another is a nonprofit body headed by a former IAF pilot; a third is a one-person effort by a veteran South African settler who lost his children in an accident; a fourth was set up by parents of IDF soldiers killed in traffic accidents.

On a more official level, there is a branch of the Transport Ministry called the Highway Safety Administration, which appears to be superfluous because it simply rubber-stamps the ministry's decisions. Retired judge Dov Levin heads yet another body called the Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

In addition to all these, MK Avraham Burg has created a group called "The World Belongs to the

Careful," which mainly promotes safety among young people.

Burg has also teamed with MK Tzahi Hanegbi to lobby for a list of draconian laws they say will make the roads safer.

It's easy to understand why there are so many bodies working towards one goal.

If someone can't agree with the method of his movement, it's simpler to form a fresh organization rather than change things from within or accept the will of the majority.

Trouble is, some of the organizations seem to spend at least as much time slanging each other as they do campaigning for safety. That's a pity in these days when statistics show that the fatal accident rate for the first 10 months of the year was 10 percent higher than the equivalent period last year.

At any rate, some of the organizations' suggestions are so far-fetched, they could hurt the noble cause they are trying to help, if they were ever adopted.

For example, Burg and Hanegbi suggest that any policeman



Just half an hour after this car smashed into a roadside lamppost in Wadi Ara, injuring three, another car was involved in a head-on collision at the same spot, injuring five. (Avi Hirschfeld)

of any rank should be empowered to summarily (without trial) suspend the driving license of a traffic

delinquent. Presumably the offenses justifying instant license suspension will include running a

red light and excessive speeding. Currently it's accepted practice for a commissioned officer to sus-

pend the driving license of a suspected serious offender for a maximum of 30 days, although the legality of this is being disputed in a court action led by former Auto magazine editor Roni Aronovich.

Some years ago I was test driving a car in Rishon LeZion. I stopped at a red light and pulled away when the light changed to green. After about 100 meters I was challenged by a policeman who claimed I did not stop. I denied this, pointing out that she could not view the intersection properly from where she stood.

A pedestrian who heard the argument took my side. The cop was aggressive and ill-tempered, and did not take kindly to being corrected. Probably because she did not want to be shown up for making a mistake, she slapped me with a ticket for running a red light, an offense which involves a compulsory court appearance.

The case was dismissed when it was found that the policewoman had left the force after being suspended - for giving false evidence.

I was lucky, but even so, I suffered the loss of two work days

and much anxiety. If she had given evidence I would probably have been fined about NIS 700: it's almost impossible to win a case when it's your word against that of the police.

If the Berg/Hanegbi suggestion had become law, and she had had the power to suspend my license on the spot, I would have lost my livelihood.

I accept that this policewoman was an exception and I believe most of the police are neither incompetent nor dishonest. However, they can make mistakes, and they can get out of bed on the wrong side.

Burg and Hanegbi's suggestions (they also advocate traffic "vigilantes") are as far-fetched as the Transport Ministry's attempt about two years ago to prevent under-18s from driving between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.

The inevitable happened: either they raced recklessly to get home at 12:55, or they stayed at their discos, pubs and parties until 5 a.m. and became too exhausted and/or drunk to drive. The law was withdrawn after nine months.

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Norway means 'No'

EXPRESSIONS of regret were almost universal across Europe after Norway's rejection of membership of the European Union. Yet even Euro-enthusiasts must admit there is something satisfying about a country that is so secure with its own self image that it feels it can continue to go it alone in an increasingly cooperative Europe. The vote was not against the EU but in favor of Norway.

Voters firmly believed that the EU needed Norway more than Norway needed the EU. Even the pleas of its Scandinavian neighbors for Norway to help form a powerful Nordic lobby within the union fell on deaf ears. The gap between 'yes' and 'no' - 52.5 to 47.5 percent - was comfortable but not devastating, yet interviews indicated that even 'yes' voters were not passionate about joining the community. Even if the vote had edged into acceptance, there were still grave doubts that the accession could have been passed with the necessary two-thirds majority in parliament.

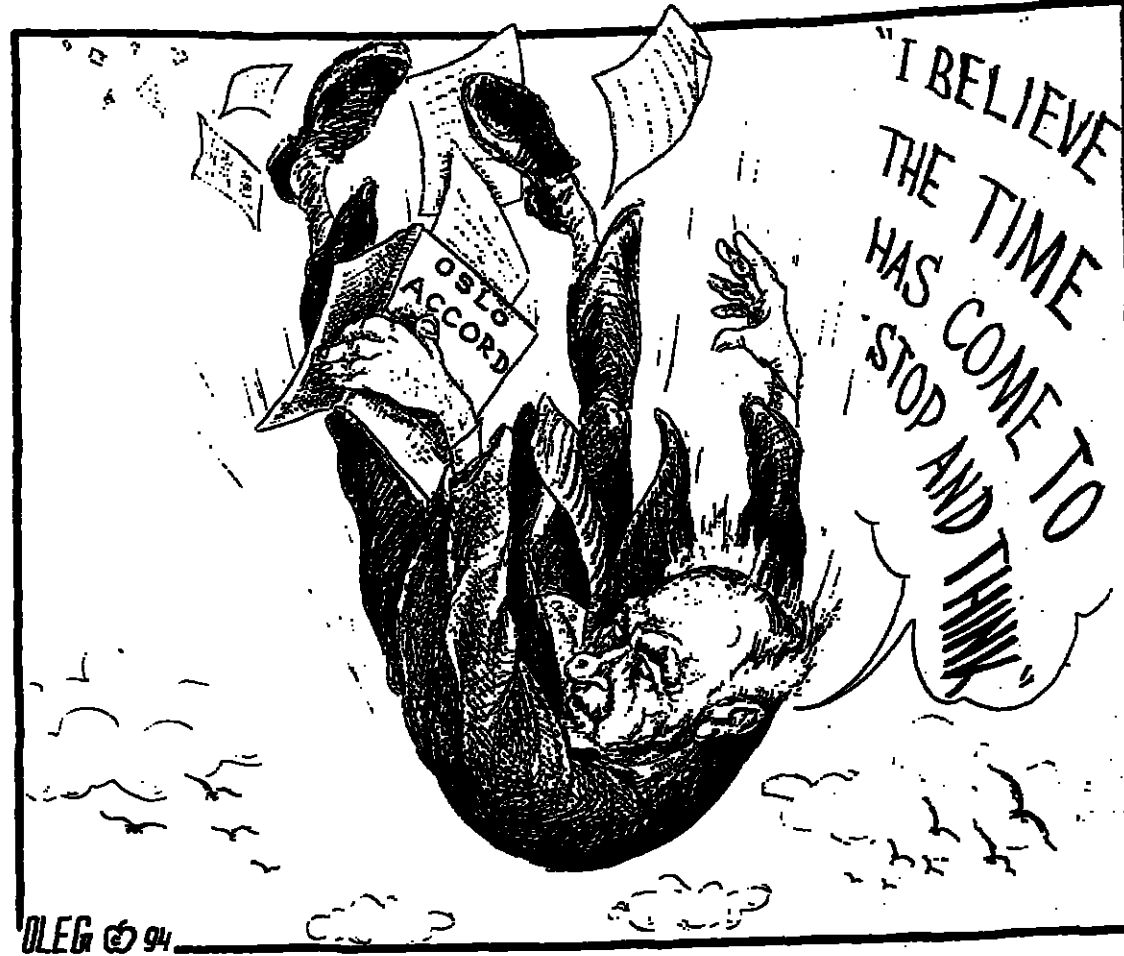
The vote is no great tragedy either for Norway or the EU. Norway is a popular and respected state of Europe, already deeply entrenched in cooperation with its continental neighbors in every field of international relations. There will be no question of sanctions or closure of the already open borders with the EU. Nor is the door to Europe irrevocably closed. As German and French leaders pointed out, the EU will always remain open to Norway despite this week's referendum outcome. The next window of opportunity should the Norwegians want to reconsider will come as early as 1996 when a planned EU progress review will be followed by new talks with prospective candidates for membership.

A major factor in the 'no' vote was Norway's lack of security problems. Finland and Austria, which will be joining the EU in January, were keen to emerge from years of neutral isolation under the shadow of the mighty Soviet Union and its satellites. Norway, long an active and important NATO member, felt secure enough to worry instead about meddling from the faraway Brussels bureaucracy. And unlike Sweden, no economic crisis troubles oil-rich Norway, so there was no incentive to dip into the wealthy coffers of the EU.

Far from cutting itself off from Europe, Norway as a NATO member and partner in the 53-nation European Security Conference (CSE) will remain at the heart of the debate on the future of the continent. Indeed the focus early next month will switch from the EU to NATO ministerial meetings, which are expected to agree on a formula for taking new members into the military alliance - initially Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. The CSE itself, which now has only a small secretariat based in Vienna, may well be given a more powerful council similar to NATO's and it proposed to rename it as an organization, rather than a conference.

Nonetheless, the EU is saddened by the rejection. There was a certain appealing tidiness in the idea of having a Europe united from Ireland to Austria and Norway to Greece. And while the EU is now the world's richest economic bloc, it remains weak politically. Adding the entire Nordic bloc and Austria would undoubtedly have raised the EU's international diplomatic clout to a formidable level. This was the basic aim of the Maastricht European Union Treaty, which became effective a year ago. The treaty calls for the member states to draw up common foreign policies and to establish a central bank and single currency by 1999. There are also plans to beef up the military power of the alliance through the Western European Union following the West's miserable failure to end the war in Yugoslavia.

But Europe's voters continue to show a healthy skepticism for too much tidiness directed from above by bureaucrats, as the stormy passage of the Maastricht treaty through Britain, France, Denmark and Italy demonstrated. In the end, the Norwegians stuck to their decision in a 1972 referendum to stay outside what was then the European Economic Community. That decision hurt neither Norway nor the expanding union. Neither will the new decision which must be respected and applauded as a democratic exercise of the people's sovereign will. It will serve as a useful reminder to overweening politicians everywhere that while they may propose what they like, it remains the right of the voters to dispose of what they don't like.



Teheran's terrible two

WE do not know whether the fanatical imams of Iran have seen Jihad in America, the TV documentary about the growing menace of Moslem fundamentalist terror in the United States, screened in Israel and the US last week.

No doubt the Teheran clerics would have been delighted to learn of the shock and apprehension felt by audiences who sat glued to their TV screens. For they are the ones who nurture the cadres of dedicated "fighters for Allah."

Iranian government leader Ali Fallahian is the overall boss of international terrorist operations, while another Iranian leader, Ali Montashemi, is the big chief of Hizbullah, which Syria allows to operate freely in Lebanon. The two terrible Alis are working to enlist America's large Moslem population to their deadly cause.

That the danger is real and growing was made crystal-clear in the film, which showed terror action groups being incited to sow death and destruction.

The bombing of the New York World Trade Center was the successful outcome of just one deadly plan. The film made it clear that there are others.

While the purpose of terror is to terrify, the real aim of international terrorists is to spread despair by wearing down the will and weakening the moral fabric of targeted societies.

Once that happens, as Ayatollah Khomeini proclaimed, the globe will be ripe for the "only true faith of Allah" to sweep across the continents, just as it did in the seventh century.

Moslem fundamentalist terror has already penetrated deep into Latin America, as the attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets in Buenos Aires demonstrated so powerfully.

Iran's mullahs are pouring money into the Sudan, now as fanatical a Moslem state as Iran itself. In Sudan, thousands of volunteers from all over the Arab world are undergoing training. Many of these fighters are now serving with the Moslem army in the Bosnian civil war.

European nations are worried about an aggressive Moslem state arising in the heart of Europe. This is why France, Germany and their neighbors are trying to dissuade President Clinton from lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia.

The imams' strategy is to destroy the regimes in Egypt and Algeria, while gaining strength in Morocco and Tunisia. In this, they are following the North African route of their warrior forebears.

Once in control of North Africa, Teheran will be free - as were Mohammed's generals - to reach Spain and then all Europe. Meanwhile, they are indoctrinating Europe's large Moslem communities.

Far-fetched? French security

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

chiefs don't think so. They smell trouble. They are alarmed about signs of Teheran-inspired rebellion in Moslem areas over the entire country.

Even teenage girls are fighting for Allah as they don their traditional headscarves in schools, in defiance of state laws. And hundreds of "undesirable" Moslems have been arrested or expelled by Jacques Pasqua, the energetic interior minister.

The West looks on horrified but helpless as Iran's mullahs pull the strings of Moslem terror

In Lebanon, Hizbullah fighters grow bolder by the day. In Gaza, their Hamas fundamentalist brethren are contemptuously undermining the authority of Yasser Arafat, as a crowd of over 30,000 Hamas supporters demonstrated a few days ago.

The fundamentalists are preparing their suicide bombers and murder squads with growing self-confidence as the Rabin government flounders, increasingly paralyzed by inertia.

IT IS little wonder that the imams take advantage of the Western world's incompetence and lack of will to confront the menace facing it.

The Iranians are forging ever-increasing quantities of fake dollars on modern, Western-supplied printing presses, producing millions of phony \$100 bills, and, lately, \$20 bills.

These high-class forgeries are financing the growing number of terrorist cells being set up in the US, Britain, Holland, Germany and other countries. Meanwhile, as though deafened and blinded by greed, European powers have decided to renew the sale of arms to Damascus, despite intelligence information that, in sponsoring international terror, Syria is the other pole of the Iranian axis.

The Europeans' incompetence is as marked at that of the US.

When Kach leader Meir Kahane was shot four years ago, federal investigators dismissed the murder as the act of a lone Moslem fanatic.

But, as Jihad in America detailed, after the Kahane murder, more than two years before the World Trade Center bombing, US authorities seized documents from the apartment of Ali Said Nossair, the man accused of shooting Kahane. Those documents, which were only superficially examined, contained detailed plans to blow

up American monuments. Proper research would have made it clear that Kahane's killer - whose identity remains unknown - was really part of a fanatical gang inspired by Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the pro-Iranian Egyptian cleric. Had the US authorities acted then, they would have been in a position to avert the bombing of New York's tallest skyscraper.

It can now be revealed that the US court was right in acquitting Nossair of Kahane's murder. He was sent to prison on lesser charges.

Nossair was simply a decoy. He fired a bullet from his Magnum into the air to distract attention from the real killer.

A third man, Abu Halima, was waiting in the getaway car. He fled to Egypt where, brutally interrogated by the local police, he confessed his role in the operation. He has since been extradited to the US.

The federal agencies weren't the only negligent party.

The government of Yitzhak Shamir failed to heed the alarm bells that rang loud and clear at Kahane's murder. Advice that the murder should be closely investigated, despite the fact that Kahane was regarded as a pariah, was completely ignored.

The American Jewish establishment, which considered Kahane's extremist views distasteful and embarrassing, also kept silent.

In Egypt, President Mubarak is running scared, trying to stop Moslem fundamentalists destroying his regime. This is surely one reason for his recent hostility toward Israel - something that seems to puzzle our Foreign Ministry.

A clue to Mubarak's thinking lies in the traffic of Egyptian-furnished arms to Hamas terrorist groups in Gaza. This is no accident. Egyptian security men would never allow this sort of thing to go on unless they had been ordered to turn a blind eye to it.

In arming Hamas in Gaza, Mubarak wants to deflect the Egyptian fundamentalists' rage from himself.

In Israel, the chickens came home to roost this week, when Rabbi Amiram Olami died at the hands of Moslem killers near Hebron.

It is becoming increasingly clear that our government is no different from the rest of the Western world in totally underestimating the growing arrogance and power of fundamentalist leaders.

Arafat's chances of ruling over Gaza are now zero. The Oslo accords are stone dead. On their tomb these words will surely be written: "Slain by the mullahs of Iran."

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

Costly waste

PHILLIP KNIGHTLEY

THE Cold War is over. Is intelligence still needed? If so, where and how? Congress has set up a committee to answer these and other questions.

The secret agents, the code breakers, the evaluators insist that intelligence is still essential. And the old spies are not easily swayed by their myths.

KGB defector Oleg Gordievsky recently reviewed the memoirs of his old boss, Gen. Oleg Kalugin, in a British magazine. Gordievsky wrote of Kalugin's appointment as head of the KGB's foreign counterintelligence, and how he "turned his talent and energy towards the destruction of the fabric of American society."

The idea that a KGB general could sit at his desk in the Lubyanka and destroy the fabric of American society is ludicrous. Yet it is typical of the legends that many spies and spymasters seem determined to perpetuate. Fortunately, others have decided to be frank.

Spying isn't what it used to be. Perhaps it never was

Yuri Modin, the KGB officer who controlled the notorious Cambridge ring - Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Anthony Blunt and John Cairncross - has revealed that when he was working as a desk officer during World War II, he seldom had time to read all the reports agents sent him.

When he consulted his senior officer, he was told to plunge his hand into the pile on his desk, hope that he hit gold, and mark the rest "To be read later."

A new Russian biography of Philby reveals that the KGB never really trusted the Cambridge Ring, anyway. Moscow Center refused to believe that the five men could have legitimate access to such top-secret information.

Philby was especially suspect. How could a man with a known communist past become an officer in the Secret Intelligence Service? The center concluded that all five must really be British intelligence officers trying to penetrate the KGB. So, at a time when the Germans were at the gates of Moscow, the center concentrated on trying to trap the Cambridge Five.

I believe, therefore, that Philby's most valuable role for the KGB actually came after he fled to Moscow.

He was a constant, living reminder to Britain's SIS and the CIA that none of their officers was to be trusted, and a stimulus to the paranoia of American counterintelligence officers like James Jesus Angleton, whose hunt for the American Philby tore the CIA apart.

ANGLETON was too early. The American Philby - Aldrich Ames - turned up later, and the report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence about the Ames case makes it clear the CIA was every bit as inept as the KGB.

The agency's failure to accept that Ames, a drunken and bumbling spy, had been handing over bundles of CIA documents to the Soviet embassy in Washington, led to the loss of "virtually all the CIA's intelligence assets targeted at the Soviet Union."

By 1987, a senior officer reported, it did not have a single Soviet case producing worthwhile intelligence.

Yet, despite this, the US won the cold war. Kalugin's grandiose plans to destroy the fabric of American society came to nothing. The CIA, crippled by Ames's treachery, was equally unsuccessful in its operations against the Soviet Union.

The inescapable conclusion: Intelligence played almost no role in the outcome of the Cold War. Economic strength, technological ability, political institutions, geography and population were far more important factors.

A recent conference on intelligence included the former head of the KGB, Leonid Shebarshin, the former chief of KGB counterintelligence, Sergei Kondrashev, the former head of East German intelligence, Markus Wolf, and the former head of West German intelligence, Herbert Hallenbroich.

They were challenged to name one important historical peacetime event in which intelligence played a decisive role. They were unable to do so.

I believe history will show that peacetime intelligence agencies have been an expensive waste. For 50 years, we have been victims of a vast international confidence trick.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU, SENATOR HELMS

Sir, - From the bottom of my heart, I thank Senator Jesse Helms for his frank, no-nonsense statements on the Middle East. Of course, US troops should not come to the Golan Heights. There is no reason why they should endanger their lives at a location halfway around the globe. Israel is willing to protect their own country and they should be allowed to do so.

I am a US citizen residing in Israel who has always voted Democrat. However, the sentimental must optunistically termed "the peace process," which Clinton is presiding over has turned me sour on his whole administration.

Bravo, Jesse Helms, for reminding us all that the Middle East has nothing in common with never-never land. It is a region where well-intentioned innocents like Israel's present happy-go-lucky government are doomed to perish.

SUSIE DYM
Rehovot.

DEAD DEAL

Sir, - The deal with Syria which included American troops on the Golan is dead. It never was robust and our national election just killed it. All Israelis should appreciate this.

President Clinton, who pressed for the deal, was dealt a heavy blow, losing his Democratic majority in both houses of Congress. In his post-election press conference, he accepted much of the responsibility and promised to try to do better.

"Doing better" does not include stationing troops in a highly dangerous hot spot facing fanatical Arab terrorists on the Golan. Assad needs merely to wink and look aside; his trained experienced assassins would produce American casualties and an ignominious American retreat. That is what happened in Lebanon.

Clinton and Christopher pushed ahead on their Middle East policies and promises without calling congressional leaders into close conference. Now a new and critical Congress is aroused and is asking: "What? Why? How?" Both Senators Moynihan and D'Amato, representing New York State and stout friends of Israel, are opposed to sending American boys to the Golan. It is difficult to find any responsible American who likes the idea.

Only a president with evidence of enthusiastic, overwhelming support of the electorate would dare move our troops to the Golan without consulting Congress. And that is not Bill Clinton today.

ISADOR RUBIN
Hicksville, N.Y.

CHRISTIAN EVANGELICALS

Sir, - I refer to your op-ed article of November 17 by Frank Etklor. In your determination to shoot down the Rabin government's peace program, you print articles by self-anointed experts whose opinions happen to agree with your politics.

The thrust of the article is that American evangelical Christians once "popular with Israeli leaders who saw them as a bulwark against enemies of the Jewish nation," are now "being whacked around by some American Jewish leaders" because the Christians happen to be more concerned about the survival of Israel than they are. He states that, "American Jewish leaders have willingly or reluctantly yielded to pressure by the Rabin government to support the peace process."

An analysis of American-Jewish voting patterns shows that what our American cohorts object to in the program of the Christian evangelicals (also called Moral Majority, Born Again) is not their stand on Israel, but on the issues of abortion, capital punishment, school prayer and term limitations, all indigenous issues. Any American Jew who was not disturbed by the speeches of the two Pats, Buchanan and Robertson, at the last presidential nominating convention of the Republican Party does not understand the threat posed by the charismatics.

BURT EDELSTEIN
Jerusalem.

FATAH TERRORISM

Sir, - A news item on November 7 claims that "since the May signing of the Cairo agreement, Fatah did not clearly participate in any attack on Israelis." Yet according to other reports in The Jerusalem Post in recent months, Fatah (Yasser Arafat's faction of the PLO) has indeed been involved in terrorism against Israelis, as well as against fellow-Arabs.

For example, The Post reported on August 1 that "Fatah terrorists were captured after carrying out nine firebombings and other attacks on Israelis." On August 15, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin revealed in the Knesset that Fatah had murdered at least 11 Arabs in recent weeks. And the Post reported on October 31 that a Fatah member tried to throw a hand grenade at Israelis in Hebron the previous day (the grenade exploded in his hands).

Arafat did not prevent these attacks, did not condemn them, and did not "discipline" the attackers, as the Israel-PLO accords require.

GIDEON EVANS,
President,
ZOA Tri-County South Jersey District

Cherry Hill, N.J.

FRIGHTENING OUTLOOK

Sir, - The folly of leaving the security of Israel in the hands of other leaders and other nations is amply demonstrated by the PLO's security arrangements with Israel. The PLO is totally devoid of any desire or any ability to protect Israel. The arrangements at Oslo and Cairo touted by Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Peres and Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin proceeded from the assumption that the PLO would be a guarantor for Israel's safety against Hamas and Islamic Jihad. We can see how this has been working out. Hamas and the PLO have been most eager to blame Israel for their problems in the chagrin of those who are still learning nothing from history.

Now the US is being pressured to station troops on the Golan either alone, or as part of a UN force. May I remind you that the UN had guaranteed that the Straits of Tiran would be open to Israeli ships and had forces stationed there to prevent clashes with the Egyptians. The forces were withdrawn at Gamel Abdul Nasser's unilateral demand that they leave, thus causing the Six Day War. Also, to go back in history, Ethiopia was guaranteed by the League of Nations and we all know what happened to Ethiopia when Italy decided to invade in the Thirties.

In addition, the idea of losing American soldiers alone or as part of a UN force must be frightening to a vast majority of the American people who have always been pro-Israel. It is important therefore to have the American Congress and the American people discuss what will happen in any war or even major incident involving Syria and Israel.

TOBY WILLIG
Jerusalem.

NOISE POLLUTION

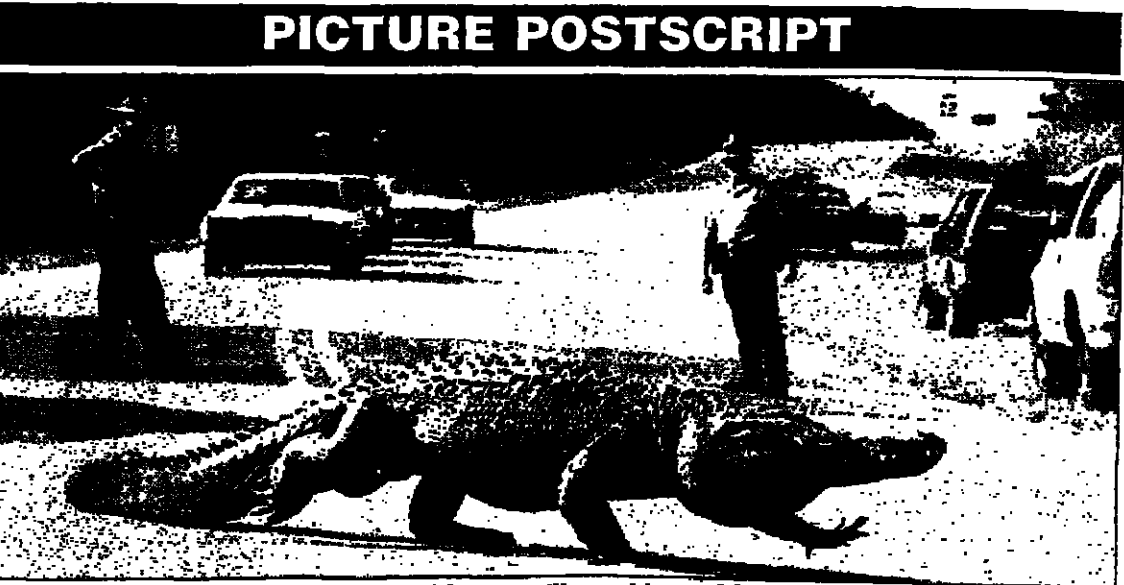
Sir, - As a quiet and considerate solo synthesizer organ performer at weddings and other functions, I sympathize with Lucien Harris (November 18) who complains that the conversation of guests is "drowned out by deafening noise created by some bands of hired musicians."

I was a guest at a function where the host got an assurance from the band leader that he would turn down the volume when requested, but when so requested, one of the players objected and packed up his instrument to leave.

At another function, the host sent the band home when they ignored his request to tune it down.

If you observe carefully, you will notice that some of these players stuff earplugs, cotton wool or even pieces of paper napkins in their ears to try mitigate their own suffering!

ALAN TAYLOR
Jerusalem.



"Pull over, Mack." Crossing a double line will get this road-hog into real trouble from any officer willing to impose the law. The 4-meter alligator had crawled onto the warm asphalt for a morning snooze, blocking traffic between Southport and Belville, North Carolina. After an hour-long "squat-off" the gator ambled away, while the sheriff's men kept their distance. (AP)

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT

Accept the fact: Your parents are only human

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
I moved here after being very hurt by my parents. A few months ago, I learned that my father has had a mistress ever since I was born. Basically, he's a bigamist. What hurt me even more was finding out that my mother has known about her all along. I feel like I don't know either of them for real. What kind of man lives like that? And what kind of woman thinks it's acceptable? I don't know how to reconcile with them. I don't know if I want to at all.

Hoaxed by the Folks
Jerusalem

Dear Folks-Hoaxed,
Most children don't really know what kind of people their parents are until old enough or distant enough to begin even to ponder the question. In your case, "enlightenment" swooped down suddenly. What you witnessed in your parents was weakness - an awful thing to see in a parent, especially in such an unpleasant form.

Try to use this trauma as an opportunity to discover your own strength. Reconciling with your parents is less an issue here than reconciling yourself to the fact that they have human failings. Doing so will require a lot of inner resolve. But it will serve you better in the long run.

Dear Ruthie,
I came here to live five years ago with my wife and three children. It was extremely difficult to adjust to the language, the culture, the school system and a change of career. But, finally, the children are settled, and I am beginning to feel a sense of belonging. My wife, on the other hand, is unhappy. She misses her old way of life, her old friends, and her family. She wants us to leave. Is there a way to solve this without splitting up the family?
Allya Deadlocked
Haifa

Dear Deadlocked,
If just you and your wife were involved, I'd say you had a marital problem requiring some sort of compromise. In this case, however, there are three children who must be taken into account. After overcoming the difficulties of adjusting to a whole new life, your children are likely to suffer if uprooted again. It could be that your wife just needs a little more time to adjust than the rest of you. If so, you must try hard to be supportive, and help her get through it. If not, she must be the one to struggle with the answer about priorities - both within the family and without.

Dear Ruthie,
My best friend and I both love to cook. After enrolling in several gourmet classes together, we began to sell goodies out of our homes to friends for parties and such. Now my friend wants us to go into business as caterers. I am hesitant to enter into a partnership with her, for fear that it could ruin our friendship. I've heard too many stories about things like that happening.

Cooked Goose?
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Cooked,
Indeed, it's risky to become entangled financially with a close friend. On the other hand, starting a business with anyone is risky. If you're worried about your friendship boiling over, don't let anything simmer for too long with the lid on. Leave as little room as possible for misunderstandings: Make all details of your partnership clear in a proper legal document. Two chummy cooks don't necessarily spoil the broth.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Okay, world traveler, have you seen Eilat?

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

ARKIA has a series of vacation packages in Eilat with flights from Ben-Gurion Airport. Three nights at the Holiday Inn, including airfare, are NIS 729 midweek and NIS 839 on weekends. For pensioners, the airline has a three-night midweek special for NIS 657 at the Paradise Hotel.

DAG AL HADAN, the well-known fish restaurant in Upper Galilee, now offers accommodations in vacation cabins. The price per night for a couple, including breakfast, is NIS 150 on weekends and NIS 135 on weekdays. The restaurant now offers meat and vegetarian meals as well as fresh trout.

ANOTHER NEW lodging place is Drachim, a guest house and hotel at the entrance to Dimona. A private room is NIS 102 for a single and NIS 65 per person for a double. There are also special group rates. Meals are available if ordered in advance.

BRITISH AIRWAYS is offering a series of winter packages in London. The price for a three-night weekend, including round-trip fare, hotel and breakfast, starts at £289 (about \$450). Prices for a six-night package start at £345 (about \$540). Lower rates are available for a family of four sharing one room, with the specific price dependent on the ages of the children.

SKY HAKIKAR is offering Christmas packages in New York, including round-trip fare on El Al and six nights in a Manhattan hotel, with prices starting at \$795. The same tour operator is also offering seven-night packages to Thailand from \$1,125. For an even cheaper winter vacation, Yossi Tours has packages

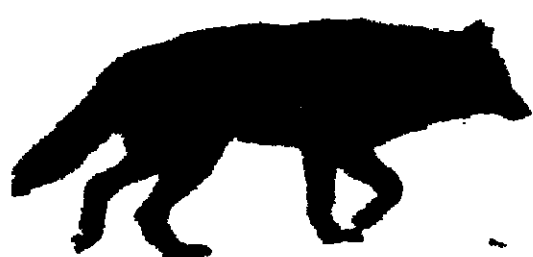
to Antalya which start at \$232, including airfare and half board.

EL AL is offering passengers who buy a full-price tourist-class ticket to London the option of an upgrade to business class for a surcharge of \$125.

Lufthansa is offering a business-class upgrade for \$125 to passengers paying the full tourist fare for all of its destinations in Europe. The upgrade is free for passengers paying the full tourist fare for destinations to the UK or the Republic of Ireland.

AIR FRANCE is offering a round-trip fare from Tel Aviv to New York for \$649 for a limited number of departure dates. The airline has also opened what it calls its "bargain counter" for low-priced vacation specials from Paris. Some examples of such bargain round-trip fares are Paris-New York for \$500, Paris-Miami for \$640 and Paris-the Caribbean for \$550.

SWISSAIR HAS installed telephones in all of its MacDonnell Douglas 11 planes. There is a phone for every two seats in first and business classes and two telephones in tourist class. The charge, paid by credit card, is \$4.90 for up to half a minute, \$9.80 for every minute and a \$3 connection fee.



During an industrial-strength cold spell, young wolves - orphans penned for research - roam at the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota. (M. Moss/Newsday)

We froze; then someone cried 'Wolf!'

TRAVEL
MICHAEL MOSS

FOR a week we'd been seeing wolves, a couple of dozen in all. But the experience left us strangely unsettled.

Orphans penned for research. Playful youngsters kept for tourists. Even the two huge black wolves running free, which we spotted from 140 meters above Minnesota, were diminished somehow by the electronic gear that kept track of them.

Then, with a frosted sun slipping from our last day in the northern woods, we drove back to town on a snowpacked road near the Kawishiwi River and botanist Gordon Maupin let out a yelp.

"Wolf!" he said, ripping me from a daydream with the voltage in his voice.

There on a rise was a big, dark gray wolf, its silhouette burnished against the hoary wilderness. It drifted across the road left to right, then vanished.

We, in turn, drifted from stunned to giddy.

Pat Tirabasso, who studies cows for a living, bolted from the van into the deep snow in search of clues. Pressing my fingertips into its tracks made me want to howl!

We 14 ecology tourists had mused upon wolves and ice in the midst of what locals were calling an industrial-strength cold snap. Minus 34°C. Lake Superior in a rare freeze-over. Woebegetones in full tilt hibernation.

We looked and learned, and we were going home wealthy even without that silver-streaked wolf on the Kawishiwi. But to see one truly wild king of the food chain, one of perhaps only 2,500 in all the 48 contiguous states, left us thrilled.

It also made me wonder if those

other wolves in various states of subjection might be helping to free an entire species that's been bruised and battered for decades.

Kate Crowley and husband Mike Link guide groups out of the North Woods, a 535-acre National Audubon Society sanctuary north of Minnesota's Twin Cities. They look for wolves for the Audubon Society and the Smithsonian.

I hooked up with a bunch of Ohioans who booked Link and Crowley for what I'd guess is their best offer: the northern timber wolf of Minnesota's North Shore (Lake Superior) and Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Link is a rare find in the travel industry's blizzard of eco-tourism hustles, a natural at imparting wisdom through the "infusion method."

"You need to get a feel for the land," he said.

He tipped Tirabasso off her snowshoes into a deep drift one day, and sure enough it got her thinking about the whitetail deer that will struggle with the same snow to outrun a wolf.

SOME ASPECTS of the trip were quite conventional. We spent two nights at Audubon, three in cabins on the North Shore, and two more in a lodge near the town of Ely, all superbly organized.

We also snowshoed, skied, dogsledded and dabbled in something called "skijoring," in which a victim on skis is pulled by dogs who turn left or right by the commands "Haw!" and "Geel,"

which I, for one, could not keep straight.

It hardly mattered when I was hooked up to a dog named Smuta ("trouble" in Russian). Spotting a red-tailed hawk, he took a 90-degree haw as I went gee.

But what made this trip into adventure was a cold so harsh there was no warmth to be had in the simple act of blowing into our hands. Local weather maps struggled for superlatives to describe the Arctic blasts hurtling through.

"The hardest thing is getting past that initial barrier, the fear factor about the cold," Link said.

Dawn on the North Shore was minus 31°C, the windblown Lake Superior ice grinding and creaking.

After breakfast one morning the temperature spiked to a workable minus 24, the group strapped on snowshoes, and we stepped into a forest rich with marvels where we had seen only a desert of snow and trees.

Every few steps Link called a halt to our shuffling: at the scooped-out hollows where deer had slept; at the tiny tracks that belonged to the shrew; at the mountain maple whose reddish branches, in contrast to the deathly gray, meant life continued; at trees with long, vertical cracks that showed they were at the northern limits of their antifreeze.

Here was an entire world where everything perched on an active fault line between life and death. Aspen and birch dominated this forest, with some white cedar and

patches of pines. Link explained.

For all there was to see, it amazed us how little moved. The smaller critters had blanketed into the warmer subnivean zone, like the last weasel whose tracks simply dead-ended where it plunged into the snow. Raptors sat still until they spotted a feast that was worth an expenditure of energy.

Only the wolf with its two layers of fur seemed immune to the cold. "There's nothing more controversial than the wolf," Link told us one evening. "And nothing that raises the two ends of the emotional spectrum of fascination and hate like the wolf."

Adult wolves are nearly as long as people are tall, stand a meter high, and weigh 45-55 kg with the record up in Alaska at 75 kg.

They're big dogs scientifically, with a crushing strength twice that of German shepherds. Like deranged humans they do at times engage in excessive killing: they'll tear through a flock of sheep, de-legging every stupid one in sight. No matter what anyone says, they're far too intelligent to make good pets.

At other times they're amazingly gentle, say researchers who grow intimate with their charges. They're monogamous, incredibly good parents, and nonsexist to the degree that females often lead packs.

Their emotions are highly developed. The tail alone can express at least 11 emotions, from self-confidence to strong restraint, and the howl - once thought to

merely express loneliness - is now associated with celebration and camaraderie, as well as restlessness and anxiety.

We learned more at the new International Wolf Center in Ely, a superbly designed museum with four youngsters in a large enclosure visible through a huge glass viewing room.

Near Ely, researchers have put collars on one wolf in each of a dozen packs, whose movements they then track with telemetry to learn more about what the wolf needs to survive.

At the Kawishiwi, Crowley, who was driving, reported seeing the trail of a second wolf, and we found two tracks.

On the snowbank there was also yellow snow spotted with blood where the fertile female in heat left a scent mark, which conveys a huge amount of information to other wolves.

Tirabasso reported back from the woods that the tracks showed the male wolf ambled along then kicked into high gear, probably when we pulled up in the van. Wolves are highly territorial. Our map showed that they probably belonged to a four-wolf pack called Gabbro, hemmed in by eight wolves in the Nip Creek pack, 14 in Pike, and eight in Quagga - two of which we had seen the day before from a four-seater plane.

Of all we learned, I cherished most the fact that humans can hear a howl up to 4 km away, but wolves can hear it as far away as 8 km. Time and again I stopped on my solo skiing to howl in hopes of raising a response. I never heard back, but then maybe they were howling after all. (Newsday)

Winchell: The voice of 'Mr. and Mrs. America'

BOOKS
MALCOLM JOHNSON

WINCHELL: Gossip, Power and the Culture of Celebrity, by Neal Gabler. Knopf. \$53 pp. \$30.

LEGENDARY Walter Winchell, vaudeville hoover-turned-media king, stands as a child of the century. Through his 75 years, Winchell experienced the best and worst of a tumultuous, speedily changing world, and played a major role in the transformation of America.

In *Winchell: Gossip, Power and the Culture of Celebrity*, former film critic Neal Gabler presents the admired and reviled, courted and spurned columnist and broadcaster as a man who rose rapidly and spent the rest of his life trying to stay on top.

Though feared on Broadway and in Hollywood, this intimate of J. Edgar Hoover and even Franklin Delano Roosevelt always fretted about the haunting question turned into a trademark joke by comic Rodney Dangerfield. Winchell, the creator of media gossip, a power in politics and a self-created cult celebrity icon, had everything but respect. Though the man in the snap-brim hat generated

more than his share of scoops in his syndicated column and on his radio shows, he was flattered when someone called him a reporter.

Gabler, who comes across as a reporter himself rather than as a theorist, never leans on the idea suggested by his subtitle. But as one reads of Winchell's glory days - from the liberated '20s, the patriotic '40s and paranoid, witch-hunting '50s - an unmistakable impression emerges.

Though ultimately abandoned by the shrunken Hearst newspapers and his radio and television sponsors, Winchell must be regarded today not only as a great mover and shaker in his times, but also as the father of modern journalism. The jargonistic, personal, breathless prose styles of today, the scandal-mongering, the attitude that everyone's personal life is everyone else's business, all this goes back to Winchell.

GABLER, WINCHELL'S latest and most thorough biographer, worked on his hefty tome for 5½ years, reading reams of copy, books and articles, interviewing witnesses and even tracking down Winchell's estate. He portrays his subject with admirable balance,

making us feel Winchell's energy, arrogance and creativity. But he also etches Winchell as so self-centered and driven in his career that he never could find time for his family - with horrifying results (daughter Walda slipped in and out of madness, and son Walt Jr., or Boy, put a gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger).

Gabler, whose first big book was 1988's *An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood*, portrays Winchell as a deeply divided Jew. It was not just a matter of changing his name from Winschel; as a columnist Winchell was not averse to revealing the birth name of other Jews who had adopted more Christian-sounding names, often using the revelation slurpingly. Yet, though never religious, Winchell was among the first American media personalities to inveigh against Hitler and Nazi antisemitism.

In his heyday, Winchell (1897-1972) knew almost everyone worth knowing - from speakeasy hostess Texas Guinan (who showed the young columnist the ropes in the '20s) to Hollywood studio chiefs such as Darryl Zanuck (who made W.W. a movie star) to president Dwight D. Eisenhower (the last president to insinuate himself into the favor of

the already faltering columnist). Gabler ably shows how Winchell divided the subjects of his columns and his broadcasts into revered friends, like FDR, Hoover and - in his red-baiting years, Sen. Joseph McCarthy - and enemies that included Harry S. Truman and Adlai Stevenson.

By the time Stevenson ran against the well-liked Ike, Winchell's transition from a New Deal Democrat to a witch-hunting right-winger was all too obvious. Stevenson fans were accused of being "pink," and in one of his most scurrilous broadcasts, Winchell said Stevenson's election "would mean having a woman in the White House."

Because his sway over the minds of the American public began to die away in the wake of such obvious outrages, Winchell went a little mad in the last years of his life and died an almost forgotten man. Younger generations, who had never read his column and who only dimly remember the staccato "Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. America and all the ships at sea," know him only as the hoarse, urgent narrator of *The Untouchables*, and through his fictional portrait as the odious kingpin columnist in the cult film *Sweet Smell of Success*.

Gabler's meticulously researched, highly readable biography brings Winchell and his friends and enemies back to life. And like his subject, Gabler does not spare the lash; in describing McCarthy and his lieutenant Roy Cohn at the time of the broadcast of the Army-McCarthy hearings, the writer has this to say about the team: "Balding and beetle-browed with tiny eyes and dark jowls, with a quavering tenor voice, McCarthy looked and sounded more like the rent-collector than the hero. Cohn, his dark hair lacquered to his scalp, looked even worse."

This kind of colorful writing propels the reader through Winchell. Occasionally, Gabler bogs down in his subject's contract negotiations and other financial dealings. And his tendency to discuss one area of Winchell's career, and then to cut back in time to illuminate another angle, can be off-putting. He also fails to capture the moment when Winchell suddenly rocketed from a struggling gossip writer to the king of Broadway.

But the book's flaws are small compared with its strengths, as Gabler throws a searching spotlight on Walter Winchell and his century. (Hartford Courant)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1993

Leumi's Friedman to retire

Bank sources dismiss speculation of Fogel replacement

NEIL COHEN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi's general manager and chief executive officer David Friedman suddenly announced his intention to retire from his position yesterday.

A Leumi spokesman said Friedman left out of personal considerations.

"After six years, he feels it is time to retire from the bank. He is 64 and feels it is time to leave," the spokesman said.

At the board's request, Friedman agreed to continue managing the bank until publication of Leumi's annual results, which are due in about four months.

Moshe Sanbar, chairman of the board of directors, expressed sorrow over Friedman's announcement. He thanked Friedman for his contribution to the bank's success.

Friedman had previously managed Union Bank, and had served in a number of senior positions in the Leumi group, including international division head and manager of the main Tel Aviv branch.

Before joining Leumi, Friedman was general manager of Industrial Development Bank.

There was speculation yesterday that Aharon Fogel, director-general of the Finance



Friedman: Will continue managing bank until publication of annual results. (IPPA)

Ministry, would replace Friedman. Fogel, who previously served as chairman of Leumi & Co., Bank Leumi's investment banking subsidiary, has indicated that he will leave the Treasury at the end of the year.

Senior sources at Leumi, however, dismissed the speculation as inaccurate and said the most likely successor to Friedman would be current deputy managing director Galia Maor.

Another name that has been mentioned as Friedman's replacement is Shlomo Piotrkowsky, managing director of First International Bank, which is owned by the Safra family, apparently the only bidders for next year's intended sale of Leumi. Piotrkowsky is a former senior executive for Leumi.

The sources added the bank is going through a period of considerable uncertainty prior to being sold, and therefore, Friedman may have preferred to leave on his own accord rather than face the prospect of being replaced by the new owners next summer, when the bank is expected to be sold.

Another Leumi source suggested that Friedman's resignation may pave the way for his appointment as chairman of the bank next year after Sanbar, who is in his late 60s, may retire.

Tender for Hapoalim sale to be issued this month

Gov't to sell off 20%-51% of bank's shares

JOSE ROSENFELD and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ENCOURAGED by the recent sale of United Mizrahi Bank's controlling share, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat announced yesterday the government will issue a tender this month to sell control of Bank Hapoalim.

The government will offer between 20 percent and 51 percent of Hapoalim's shares as a controlling stake.

Based on the many inquiries he has received, Shohat estimates there will be several candidates competing to buy the bank. By contrast, the tender to sell control of Bank Leumi last May attracted only a proposal by Edmond Safra of Republic Bank of New York.

A banking source yesterday predicted at least two groups of investors will compete for controlling interest in Hapoalim. The first group includes busi-

nessman Harvey Kruger, the Bronfman-Claridge Group, foreign investors organized by the US investment banking firm Lehman Brothers and the Dovrat Shrem brokerage firm in partnership with local investors. Bank Hapoalim Chairman Amiram Sivan reportedly is friendly with some of the group's local investors.

The second consortium, which has not yet been finalized, is headed by businessman Eliezer Fishman and includes the US investment banking firm Bear Stearns.

Treasury officials were satisfied at the acceleration of the bank sale process, noting that the Hapoalim offer is a significant step in the government's privatization program.

The sale of the banks has been stalled since last year, when a 10% issue of Hapoalim failed, as the government sold only 53% of the offered shares.

Since then, due to the market's weakness, the Treasury has focused on selling controlling stakes to private investors.

Twenty percent of Hapoalim shares are already publicly held, while 16% of Leumi shares have been publicly issued.

The Treasury forwarded to the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday a request to approve the sale of Mizrahi's controlling stake to the Ofer-Wertheim consortium for \$111m.

Under the sale's terms, the group has the option to buy an additional 25% of Mizrahi's shares within 18 months for \$105.7m., in addition to the 26% share it is buying.

Bank Leumi profits increase 9.7% to NIS 112.7m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi yesterday reported a 9.7 percent increase in third-quarter net profits to NIS 112.7 million, from NIS 102.7m. in the corresponding period last year.

In the first nine months of the year, net profits fell 14.6% to NIS 216.2m., from NIS 253m. in the corresponding period last year.

Annualized net return on equity fell to 5.7% in the first nine months of the year, from 7% in the corresponding period last year.

The higher profits were mainly due to a 34% drop in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 65.2m., from NIS 98.3m. in the corresponding period last year.

In addition, operating and other expenses fell 3% to NIS 692.8m., and provisions for taxes fell 20% to NIS 107.4m.

In the reported period, Leumi's share in the profits of subsidiaries and affiliated companies increased 70% to NIS 17.6m., from NIS 10.5m. in the third quarter of 1993.

Management said the third-quarter results were hindered by a rise in income from financing activities before provisions for doubtful debts, which fell 6.6% to NIS 552.1m., from NIS 591.1m. In the third quarter, operating and other income fell to NIS 414.8m., from NIS 461m.

Credit to the public increased 3.8% in the first nine months of the year to NIS 52.7 billion, from NIS 50.8b. at the end of last year.

Deposits to the public grew 3.1% since the start of the year to NIS 70.3b., from NIS 68.2b.

In the first nine months of the year, Leumi's total assets rose 0.5% to NIS 98.1b.

Comparative nine-month results of major concerns

	Koor	Cia	Discount Invest. Corp.	Israel Corporation
Sales	2,237	1,122	N/A	169
Operating income	201	91	N/A	11
Net income	97	28	22	14

(figures are in \$ millions)

FIBI head to central bank: Eliminate the crawling peg

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FIRST International Bank of Israel Managing Director Shlomo Piotrkowsky yesterday called upon the Bank of Israel to cancel the crawling peg system, which sets a range of exchange rate fluctuations between the shekel and basket of currencies.

First International yesterday introduced a new financial instrument, which for the first time will allow all local residents to take part in continuous, two-sided shekel-dollar trading. The bank's Dollar Hoishi (Dollar Free) plan allows all residents to place buy and sell orders directly with the bank's foreign currency trading room.

Until now, participation in continuous, two-sided shekel-dollar trading was limited mainly to importers and exporters. To participate in the plan, customers will have to provide collateral of 5%-15% of the value of the transaction. Within the next few weeks, First International plans to expand the plan to other currencies.

According to Piotrkowsky, the importance of the crawling peg system has lessened as a result of the central bank's liberalization of the capital market.

He predicted the relatively large arbitrage gap will encourage large financial institutions to take part in continuous shekel-dollar trading in the near future. Piotrkowsky also criticized the Bank of Israel's recent decision to raise interest rates.

Hapoalim earnings up 10%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim announced yesterday a 10 percent rise in third-quarter net profits to NIS 128 million, from NIS 116.4m.

Net profits for the first nine months of the year increased 65% to NIS 387m. compared with NIS 234.5m. Annualized net return on equity increased to 10.3% compared with 6.7% for the first nine months of last year and 8.8% for all of last year.

Key factors which contributed to the improved results included a 46% drop in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 127.6m., from NIS 237.8m., and a 7% drop in provisions for taxes to NIS 96.7m., from NIS 104.6m.

The rise in operating income from NIS 458.3m., from NIS 453.3m. also contributed to earnings.

The profits were partly offset, however, by a 3.9% fall in income from financing activities before provisions for doubtful debts from NIS 560.3m. to NIS 473.7m.

The bank's 6% increase in operating and other expenses to NIS 611.4m., from NIS 576m., also hindered earnings. In the first nine months of the year, operating and other expenses increased to NIS 1.8m., from NIS 1.7m.

Following legislation restricting banks' holdings in non-banking corporations, Hapoalim's net profits for the first nine months of the year do not include NIS 70.2m. of the bank's "excess investments" in these firms.

In the first nine months of the year, unconsolidated subsidiary and affiliated companies contributed NIS 77.5m. to earnings, up 42.4% compared with the same period last year. The rise is mainly due to Hapoalim's share in Koor's profits, which were included in financial statements for the first time this year. The increased earnings are also due to higher profits in Ampal, Dior and Delek.

Credit to the public rose 4.6% in the first nine months to NIS 64.9 billion, from NIS 62b. at the end of 1993, while deposits from the public rose 5.9% to NIS 70.3b., from NIS 69.6b.

In the first nine months of the year, total assets increased to NIS 118.7b. compared with NIS 118.4b.

Shekem reports net losses of NIS 11.6m.

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

SHEKEM posted third-quarter net losses of NIS 11.6 million compared with NIS 6.3m. in the same period last year, on revenues of NIS 286m. compared with NIS 283.4m.

For the nine-month period, the company had net losses of NIS 4.1m. compared with NIS 19.9m., on revenues of NIS 830.2m. compared with NIS 801.2m.

Dead Sea Works reported a jump in net profits to NIS 17.1m., from NIS 5.5m. in 1993, on revenues of NIS 176m. compared with NIS 130.8m. in the previous year. Earnings per share rose to NIS 0.04 compared with NIS 0.01.

Net profits for the nine-month period were NIS 33.29m. compared with NIS 23.57m., on revenues of NIS 478.5m. compared with NIS 415.3m.

IDB Holding Corp. reported a 62% drop in third-quarter net profits to NIS 24.2m., from NIS 63m. in the same period last year. Revenues fell to NIS 304.8m., from NIS 385m.

IDB Development, a subsidiary

company, reported net profits of NIS 32.1m., down from NIS 76.9m., on revenues of NIS 300.8m. compared with NIS 374.6m.

Industrial Development Bank reported net profits of NIS 6.7m. compared with NIS 7.3m. last year. Annualized net return on equity was 12.1% compared with 13.8% in the same period last year.

Harel Hamishmar announced third-quarter net profits on life insurance of NIS 13.7m. compared with NIS 8.8m. and net profits on general insurance of NIS 10.7m. compared with NIS 10.9m.

Phoenix Insurance reported third-quarter net profits of NIS 18.1m. compared with NIS 9.3m. last year. Net profits for the nine-month period were NIS 41.4m., up from NIS 35.3m.

Danbar recorded third-quarter net profits of NIS 1.5m. compared with NIS 3.4m., on revenues of

NIS 7.3m. compared with NIS 9.3m. Earnings per share were NIS 0.62 compared with NIS 1.34.

TAT Industries reported third-quarter net losses of NIS 2m. compared with net profits of NIS 4.9m. in the same period last year. Revenues were NIS 18.6m. compared with NIS 19.1m.

Israel Salt Industries reported a 23% fall in third-quarter net profits to NIS 1.75m., from NIS 2.29m., on lower revenues of NIS 15.3m. from NIS 17.5m. Earnings per share slipped to NIS 0.04 compared with NIS 0.06 in the previous year.

Dankner Investments announced third-quarter net profits of NIS 848,000 compared with net losses of NIS 9.25m. in the same period last year. Revenues declined 26% to NIS 21.9m. compared with NIS 29.8m.

Macpell posted net losses of NIS 5.8m. compared with net

losses of NIS 2.7m. last year, on higher revenues of NIS 41m. compared with NIS 37.4m.

Williger posted third-quarter net losses of NIS 2.2m. compared with net profits of NIS 564,000 in 1993, on revenues of NIS 13.1m. compared with NIS 13m.

Tezra reported net losses of NIS 3.2m. compared with net losses of NIS 99,000 on revenues of NIS 336,000 compared with NIS 1.2m. last year.

Knaftal announced third quarter net profits of NIS 4.9m. compared with NIS 3.9m. in the same period last year, on revenues of NIS 112.4m. compared with NIS 93.5m. Earnings per share were NIS 0.37 compared with NIS 0.35.

JOEL reported third-quarter net losses of NIS 2.13m. compared with NIS 25.3m., on revenues of NIS 9.5m. as compared with NIS 23.15m. in the 1993.

Saulal posted third-quarter net profits of NIS 472,000 compared with NIS 1.9m., on revenues of NIS 14.8m. compared with NIS 18m. Earnings per share were NIS 0.07 compared with NIS 0.30.

US gross domestic figures up 3.9%

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Strong business investment and heavy consumer spending drove the economy to a faster expansion pace during the third quarter than was previously thought, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

Total output of goods and services increased at a 3.9 percent annual rate in the three months

from July through September, up from the department's estimate last month of 3.4% and nearly matching the second quarter's 4.1% growth.

The report on gross domestic product showed the nation's economy not only shrugging off the impact of this year's interest rate increases but also firmly underpinned for more expansion ahead.

So far this year the Federal Reserve has raised rates six times to keep the economy from overheating and to ward off inflation.

The amount of production going into inventories was less than originally thought - leaving more room to keep assembly lines churning out goods - and inflation seemed muted with revised price rises still below those in the second quarter.

The Hilton in Haifa will be owned by the Haifa Economic Corporation and managed by Hilton International and not as printed yesterday.

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Purchase Price:	95.97
Redemption Price:	94.54

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.11.94)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.250	5.825	6.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.000	5.000	5.825
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.250	4.250	4.825
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.975	3.000	3.975
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.975	1.125

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (30.11.94)	Banknotes	Rep.
CURRENCIES AND TRAVELERS		
Currency basket	3.440	3.440
U.S. dollar	3.070	3.070
German mark	1.910	1.910
Pound sterling	4.700	4.700
French franc	0.520	0.520
Japanese yen (100)	0.034	0.034
Swiss franc	1.710	1.710
Swedish krona	2.250	2.250
Norwegian krone	0.380	0.380
Danish krone	0.480	0.480
Finland mark	0.610	0.610
Canadian dollar	2.170	2.170
Australian dollar	2.300	2.300
S. African rand	0.460	0.460
South African rand (10)	2.720	2.720
Italian lire (1000)	1.070	1.070
Japanese yen	1.070	1.070
Israeli pound	3.440	3.440
Israeli pound (100)	3.440	3.440

* Three rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Owners threaten to use minor leaguers

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — Major League Baseball players failed to make a counterproposal, and owners threatened to start the 1995 season with replacement players.

Owners, who already have vowed to impose their salary cap on Monday if there isn't a deal, expected the union to respond to the teams' luxury tax plan, offered November 17.

After about four hours of joint meetings on Tuesday, management negotiator John Harrington made the clearest statement yet of the teams' intentions, saying they would use minor leaguers next spring if the strike continues.

"We want to make a commitment to the fans that we're going to play the 1995 season with some caliber of professional baseball player and we believe it will be entertaining and we believe that's what the fans want," Harrington said.

"Our preference is to play with major league players out there. If they're unwilling to play, then we'll go with someone else who is willing to play."

Talks were scheduled to resume yesterday, and owners want a deal by December 7, the last day for teams to offer salary arbitration to their former players who became free agents. Management, intent on eliminating arbitration, say the new system, will take effect next Tuesday.

Eighty-two players face the December 7 deadline.

Harrington said the sides briefly discussed the possibility of moving back the deadline but said it was too early to tell if that would happen.

Union head Donald Fehr said his side spent the day asking questions about the owners' tax plan. Fehr said he wasn't worried about management's threat to impose the cap. "We don't have influence to speak of on what they're going to do," he said.

Owners' intentions to impose a salary cap prompted players to go out on strike August 12, two-thirds of the way into the season. Owners retaliated a month later by canceling the remainder of the season. It was the first time since 1904 that the championship World Series was not played.

Hapoel tops Maccabi in Haifa derby

ORI LEWIS

A DANNY Niron hat-trick saw Hapoel Haifa to a surprise 3-0 win over city rivals Maccabi in an outstanding Toto Cup soccer fixture at Kiryat Eliezer last night.

Niron scored in the second, 25th and 90th minute for a morale-boosting win for Hapoel which took full advantage of Maccabi's below-strength team and dominated for most of the match.

Maccabi had rested Moshe Giam, Marco Balbul and Eyal Berkowitz from its side. The three participated in Israel's friendly match against Cyprus in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

In other news, Ze'ev Zeltzer, who was sacked as coach of Ironi Ashdod on Monday, was appointed coach of Maccabi Herzliya yesterday.

The Herzliya club, bottom of the National League, will look to Zeltzer for inspiration after naming him as its third coach this season.

Herzliya's first coach, Eli Guttman, quit earlier in the season after Herzliya was thrashed 8-0 by Beitar Jerusalem. The subsequent appointment, Elisha Levy, was not a success.

Zeltzer was fired by lowly Ironi Ashdod and Avi Cohen, former national team, Maccabi Tel Aviv and Liverpool manager who had resigned as coach at Second Division Maccabi Yavne last month, was installed in his place.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY SUPPLEMENT

On December 16, The Jerusalem Post will be publishing a special supplement on Alternative Medicine and Natural Beauty Cosmology.

Companies or individuals who wish to advertise in the supplement should contact Smadar Ratinsky, Tel. 03-6390333, Fax. 03-6390277.

Beitar and the Bulldog



Miss Israel Orly Bassan poses with the WWF's British Bulldog, who is preparing to knock heads with his colleagues at Yad Eliyahu on Sunday at 19:00. The Bulldog will be joined in the wrestling pit with 15 other grapplers, including Razor Ramon and Double J Jeff Jarrett who will contest the WWF's intercontinental championship.

Atherton faces crucial choices over ex-captains

BRISBANE (Reuters) — England face crucial decisions over the roles of former captains Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting following Tuesday's first Test defeat by Australia at the Gabba.

Captain Michael Atherton must decide whether or not to promote the in-form Gooch to open and drop the out-of-touch Gatting with a verdict necessary before the second Test in Melbourne starting on December 24.

Gooch, 41, has been in prolific touch since the start of the tour, scoring 129 in the tour opener against the Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI, and also 101 against South Australia, as well as four other scores of 50 or more.

When the team arrived in Australia, Gooch seemed set to bat in the middle order while vice-captain Alec Stewart, who opened alongside Atherton throughout the West Indies' tour and in four Tests during the English summer, was expected to resume at the top of the order.

But Stewart's broken finger on the eve of the first match and Gooch's excellent form prompted suggestions that he and not Stewart should open.

Stewart gained the top-order berth in Brisbane after making a century in his comeback match in Hobart on the eve of the Test, but another half-century by Gooch at the Gabba, as he again looked England's best player, has reopened the debate.

Gooch is known to favor the opener's role, where he has played the majority of his 114 Tests, but Atherton justified his presence in the middle order when he said: "In the last couple of years we've always had good starts but it's been in the middle order that we've struggled."

54 arrested after Grand Prix protest

MELBOURNE (AP) — Fifty-four demonstrators opposing the construction of a Formula One auto racing circuit in Albert Park on the fringe of Melbourne's downtown area were arrested yesterday on charges of trespass.

Police moved in after about 80 people from the "Save Albert Park" group tried to halt work on the race track, which they say will destroy the parkland.

"It's a terribly sad day for Victoria (state) when people who happen to be peacefully protesting to

"We need big runs there which is part of the reason Graham is there, and he can provide some solidity there as he plays Shane Warne better than most."

The need for experience and stability in the middle-order was the reason Gatting, 37, was chosen ahead of John Crawley and all-rounder Craig White, despite scoring only 184 runs in his first nine innings on tour.

But the move turned out to be a disaster with Gatting making only 10 and 13 and looking ill-at-ease against the extra pace of Craig McDermott.

With Gooch's form making him a certain starter for the three World Series Cup games coming up before Christmas, England may omit Gatting for those matches as they might find it difficult to hide two veterans in the field.

That would leave Gatting having to score heavily in either the three-day game against the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy (CBCA) starting on December 9 or against Queensland in a four-day outing starting on December 17 to have a realistic chance of playing in the second Test.

Crawley would be favorite to take Gatting's place in Melbourne as Atherton is known to favor a specialist batsman at number six, but if White does well in the one-day matches, he could push himself ahead of both men, particularly as he is an outstanding fielder.

England received a boost as they spent yesterday resting in Brisbane following the first Test with the news that fast bowler Devon Malcolm is likely to return to action against the CBCA.

Malcolm missed the Test after contracting chickenpox, but with the danger of his infecting his teammates now past, he was able to visit the Gabba later on.

preserve their park get arrested," said protest organizer Jenni Chaudler.

There have been several protests against the track, which is supposed to become the site of the Australian Grand Prix in 1996.

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Sims calls the shots in overtime, as Eilat downs Caceres, 90-80

YOSEF SA'AR

OUTSTANDING play by Willie Sims in overtime gave Eilat a 90-80 victory over Spain's Basket Caceres to even the Hapoel team's record at 1-1 for its first victory in the fourth round of the European Korac Cup.

Playing before an 800-strong home crowd, Sims virtually took control in overtime, scoring 10 points — one three-pointer and seven converted fouls — for a rate of two points a minute. He was also the night's top scorer with 24.

Earlier, things did not look so rosy as Caceres dominated the first half and at one point took advantage of a 10-minute scoring drought by Eilat to pull ahead by 10 points. By Half

time, the Israelis were down 37-34.

In the second half, Eilat played more aggressively and players traded baskets and blows with neither team leading by more than four points. Eyal Hai, who came off the bench to start the half, made sure Hapoel never slipped too far behind, going 6 for 10 from the field, including two three-pointers, and blocking crucial shots on defense.

But with Eilat poised on the brink of victory, Caceres international guard Jordi Soler converted two free throws with seconds left to tie

the game 76-76 in regulation play.

The overtime was all Eilat, however, as Sims took control and the Spaniards were limited to only two baskets.

For Eilat, Andrew Kennedy was the second-best scorer with 20 points, Ari Rosenberg 14, Hai 14, and Brian Rowson 13.

For the Caceres side, Ray Brown netted 19 points, Enrique Fernandez 18 (including six three-pointers), Jose Paraiso 13, and Rod Sellers 10.

Eilat is now in second place in its group of four and plays next Wednesday against winless Stefanel Milano in Italy.

Revived Maccabi needs to overcome Italian jinx to beat Pesaro tonight

BRIAN FREEMAN

MACCABI Tel Aviv, fresh off its impressive home win over Real Madrid last week, has no chance to rest on its laurels. Tonight, it visits formidable Scavolini Pesaro in the European Club Championships final pool.

Maccabi, 1-2 in the championships, will attempt to stop a six-game losing streak in Italy and improve on a 3-26 all-time championship record there.

It won't be easy. Pesaro, at 2-1, has registered home victories over Panathinaikos and Olimpija Ljubljana, while losing its only road game to Real Madrid.

Pesaro is also coming off a 74-69 victory this week over Italian league leaders Verona to boost its record to 9-4, one game behind first place.

This follows an impressive league season last year, in which it posted a 21-9 record and lost in the finals to Buckler Bologna.

During the summer, Pesaro lost the services of Italian league MVP

Carlton Myers, but several players have stepped up their game this season to fill the void.

Walter Magnifico is particularly living up to his reputation as a star performer, averaging 36 minutes a game in the championships at age 34. His 18.6 points and 7.3 rebounds has helped replace the offense provided by Myers.

The 15-year veteran not only has the ability to draw fouls, averaging 9.3 free throws a game, but he also sinks 89.3 percent of his attempts from the line.

Two other veteran Italians have also added experience to the squad. Antonello Riva, 32, who played on the 1982 and 1983 European champions Cantu, arrived from Rome to start as the shooting guard, averaging 14 points. Despite hitting only 27.7% of his three-point attempts, he is not afraid to hurl up shots from behind the arc at the rate of six a game.

Former Milano and Phonola Caserta forward Sandro Dell'Agnelo, 33, has also added depth, contributing 7.3 points a contest.

An exciting young player to watch is 24-year-old guard Federico Pini. He is averaging 15 points on 68.4% shooting from the field. He is also 15 for 17 from the free-throw line and makes 2.7 steals a contest.

The key to tonight's game might be the performance of foreigner Dean Garrett, an Indiana University graduate. The 28-year-old center is the leading rebounder in the Italian league and averaging 11.6 points and 9.6 boards in the championships. When he dominates inside, as he did with an 18-point, 21-rebound performance against Verona, the team is tough to beat.

The other foreigner, point guard Corey Gaines — who has been on four NBA teams — chips in

12.3 points a game.

Other players in Pesaro's rotation are 33-year-old center Ario Costa, who together with Magnifico brought the club to the top of the Italian standings in the late 1980s, and youngsters Matteo Panichi and Paolo Calbini.

For its part, Maccabi should be well rested for the encounter, considering that it didn't even need to break into a sweat against hapless Beitar Ramat Gan on Monday.

Maccabi's last victory in Italy came against Pesaro in the 1988/89 season. Overall in the championships, Maccabi is 3-4 against Scavolini.

If the teamwork shown last week against Real Madrid continues and someone takes charge as Motti Daniel did, Maccabi has a chance to escape with a win. But that's assuming the sloppy, uninspired play in Maccabi's first two European contests won't return.

The game is scheduled to be shown live on Channel 1 at 21:30.

Knicks hand Bullets 6th straight loss

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Patrick Ewing had 20 points and 15 rebounds Tuesday night as the New York Knicks outlasted Washington 99-91, the Bullets' sixth straight loss.

Charles Smith added 17 points and Charles Oakley 16 for New York, which has won three of its last four games.

Washington's 18-6 run brought the Bullets within 4 points midway through the fourth period. But Ewing, in foul trouble much of the second half, returned to stabilize the Knicks' inside game and give New York its 16th victory over the Bullets in their last 17 meetings.

Chris Webber had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Bullets.

Warriors 127, Clippers 124 (OT)
The Los Angeles Clippers kept getting closer to a win. This time, they rallied from 21 points down to force overtime against Golden State.

Ricky Pierce scored seven of his 25 points in overtime as the visiting Clippers remained winless in 13 games this season and tumbled within four losses of the NBA record for consecutive defeats at the start of a season.

Latrell Sprewell scored 17 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter as the Warriors, who ended a four-game losing streak, had to rally to send the game into overtime.

Lakers 129, Nets 120 (2OT)
Los Angeles had to rally from a 16-point deficit in the fourth quarter, then hit two big baskets in the first overtime to win at New Jersey.

Sedale Threatt scored 7 of his 14 points in the second overtime to help the Lakers post their first five-game winning streak in two years.

Kings 94, Heat 89
Walt Williams took over for Sacramento in the fourth quarter, scoring nine of his 20 points.

Bimbo Coles had 19 points for the Heat, who hit just five of 19 shots in the final period. A 3-pointer by Brad Lohaus was the home team's only basket in the final 2:23.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
New York 98, Washington 91
Sacramento 94, Miami 89
Charlotte 90, Atlanta 85
Phoenix 123, Milwaukee 106
Seattle 85, Minnesota 83
Houston 96, Denver 81
Utah 105, Portland 94
Golden State 127, L.A. Clippers 124 (OT)



UP AND AT 'EM — Washington Bullets Calbert Chaney gets ready to block New York Knicks Hubert Davis as he tries to score in Tuesday's game.

WESTERN CONFERENCE					EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division					Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	10	3	.769	—	Orlando	7	2	.778	—
Utah	9	5	.643	1.5	New York	7	3	.700	.5
Dallas	7	4	.636	2	Boston	6	6	.500	2.5
Denver	6	6	.500	3.5	New Jersey	6	7	.462	3
San Antonio	6	6	.500	3.5	Washington	4	7	.364	4.5
Minnesota	1	13	.077	9.5	Philadelphia	4	8	.333	5.5
					Miami	3	8	.273	6
Pacific Division					Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	10	3	.769	—	Cleveland	7	5	.583	—
Golden State	8	6	.571	2	Detroit	7	6	.538	.5
L.A. Lakers	8	5	.615	2.5	Indiana	7	5	.583	—
Seattle	8	5	.615	2.5	Charlotte	6	6	.500	1
Portland	6	5	.545	3	Chicago	6	6	.500	1
Sacramento	6	6	.500	3.5	Milwaukee	5	7	.417	2
L.A. Clippers	0	13	.000	10	Atlanta	4	9	.308	3.5

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High Court upholds army's Tze'elim-2 decision

In a split decision, the High Court of Justice yesterday decided not to force the army to appeal the sentence of two officers convicted of causing the Tze'elim-2 training accident, but sharply criticized the military court's reasons for the light sentence.

The 1992 accident, in which a missile was misfired, resulted in five deaths and six wounded in the elite Sayeret Matkal unit. Two officers were convicted of causing these deaths by severe negligence, but the military court merely demoted them one rank.

Following the High Court decision, Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak decided that the two officers will not be given any command posts for three years. The punishment will be applied retroactively, from the time of the accident.

The chief military prosecutor, who had originally asked the court for a prison sentence, decided that while this punishment was light, it was not so out of line as to justify an appeal.

Four of the bereaved couples - Yochi and Ran Shifran, Ada and Shaul Shilo, Ora and Shlomo Cohen, and Chava and Shmuel Wickelbaum - had asked the High Court to order him to appeal.

In addition to the sentence itself, the petition attacked one of the military court's reasons for leniency: the fear that too harsh a punishment would deter other officers from taking necessary risks. This, the petitioners said, will encourage officers to ignore safety rules.

Justices Theodor Orr, Yitzhak Zamir, and Eliahu Mazza all agreed that the High Court should

EVELYN GORDON

order appeals only in the rarest of cases, because this would virtually force the appellate court to accept the appeal.

They also agreed that while the punishment was too light - Mazza even said the army should have appealed, since the military court had "generously applied mercy, but virtually ignored justice" - this was not enough to justify ordering an appeal in light of the need for extreme caution.

They also agreed that the military court's reasons for the sentence were highly disturbing.

"All army units, including elite units... must obey [safety regulations] during training and exercises, so that soldiers under their command will not be exposed to unnecessary risks," Orr wrote.

"The message to commanders must be that despite the need to achieve goals during operations by doing anything necessary... there is no place for taking unnecessary risks during training exercises."

"However, I fear the message of the [military court's] reasoning is different. It can be understood as saying that anyone belonging to an elite unit who... is expected to take necessary risks during an operation must be treated with a certain degree of forgiveness when he fails to fulfill his obligation to use necessary caution during exercises."

The lower court's reasoning creates discrimination between ordinary officers, who can expect severe punishment for violating safety rules, and officers in elite units, Mazza added. It is also liable to deter safety violation, and

could even encourage them, he said.

However, Mazza dissented from his colleagues' decision that this was not sufficient reason to force the army to appeal.

He said a ruling by the Military Court of Appeals was necessary, since its rulings serve as the guide for all lower military courts and for all army officers. Even if the appellate court upheld the lower court's reasoning, he said, it would at least lay down the necessary guidelines for what kinds of cases it should apply to.

After the verdict, attorney Eliahu Shraga, representing the petitioners, said that in light of the split decision, he would ask the court to rehear the case with an expanded panel of justices. Alon Pinkas contributed to this report.

Yair Levy must stay in jail, panel rules

RAINE MARCUS

FORMER MK Yair Levy, jailed for five years for embezzling NIS 500,000 from Shas's non-profit organization, El Hama'ayan, will not be freed from prison early on the grounds of ill health, a committee ruled yesterday.

Levy was imprisoned 21 months ago and has since suffered from ill health in Massiyahu jail. He claims he cannot receive proper medical treatment in prison for his ailments, including high blood pressure, heart disorders, gout, a thyroid condition and stress.

A committee, comprised of former judge Yitzhak Shilo, Dr. Zano Feldman and prison officer Shuki Messing, was formed to decide whether to release Levy. It decided yesterday that Levy's life is not in danger and he can receive appropriate medical treatment in jail.

Since he has served a third of his sentence, Levy is entitled to join the prison service rehabilitation program. He leaves the jail each morning at 7 a.m. to teach at a Bnei Brak institution and returns to prison at 8:30 p.m.

Acting on his rabbis'

instructions, Levy refused to undergo a psychiatric examination and a cardiac catheterization. But eventually, after consulting with his lawyer, Amnon Zichroni, he agreed to the psychiatric examination.

In its ruling, the committee said Levy's personal doctor, Prof. Weinberger, said he had succeeded in lowering the prisoner's blood pressure by correct treatment in the hospital. But each time he returned to prison his blood pressure rose, Weinberger said.

Prof. Dolev, of Wolfson Hospital, a doctor appointed by the State Attorney's Office, ruled there was no connection between prison and his condition.

The committee said Levy could be treated in the prison hospital or the nearby Assaf Harofeh Hospital.

"According to medical opinions, Levy's ailments do not endanger his life in prison; any more than they would if he was free," the committee said.

Levy's cooperation would also contribute greatly to his recovery, it said.

Sheves strikes back at attackers

SARAH HONIG

SHIMON Sheves, the beleaguered director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, struck back at his critics yesterday, charging that they have long had it in for him and are plotting his political destruction.

Sheves has been under severe attack by cabinet ministers and MKs, who charge that he has been grading ministers' performance, that he has maligned ministers in conversations with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, that he leaks rumors about ministers to the press, and that he has been seeking to convince Rabin to re-shuffle his cabinet and fire several ministers, including the finance and housing ministers.

Until now, Sheves has kept his silence but, apparently after Rabin gave him the green light, he spoke to reporters during a tour of Rehovot and Ness Ziona and liberally granted interviews to the electronic media.

He categorically denied that he had been undermining ministers he does not like or that he has been interfering with some ministerial operations.

"I don't know where people got the idea about a report I prepared on the ministers' performance in office. This is sheer fabrication. Some people like MK Hagai Merom (Labor) have had it in for me for a long time. I have long been on his hit list, and he spared no effort to attack me."

"This is nothing new. I think the onslaught in the last few days ought to be considered in the general context of relations within the party."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office have been claiming that supporters of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres have been targeting Sheves as a means of hitting out at Rabin.

"How can anyone know what I whisper in Rabin's ear?" Sheves asked. "Hagai Merom has never been seen anywhere between my lips and Rabin's ear."

Rabin, Sheves maintained, supports him fully.



Yehuda Etzion is led out of Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday.

(Brian Hendler)

Kach members arrested for Temple Mount prayer bid

BILL HUTMAN

NINE Kach members were arrested yesterday for trying to pray on the Temple Mount, following a similar incident involving other right-wing Jewish activists the previous day, police said.

The nine, including former administrative detainee Ben-Tzion Gubstein and Kach spokesman Itamar Ben-Gvir, were arrested at the Mugrabi Gate entrance to the Temple Mount.

A police spokeswoman said the nine, six adults and three minors, were halted by police at the gate and were detained after they refused to leave the site.

Only Moslems are allowed to pray on the

Temple Mount, according to a long-standing policy upheld on several occasions by the High Court and which the right-wing activists and Kach members were trying to challenge.

The nine Kach members were released after questioning by police.

Meanwhile, the right-wing activists detained Tuesday for trying to pray on the Temple Mount were also released yesterday pending a decision on their remand, which is expected today.

A remand hearing was held yesterday for the 10 activists, but the decision was postponed by

the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court after a lengthy hearing.

The activists, led by former Jewish underground member Yehuda Etzion, rejected the police demand they be released on condition they not enter the Temple Mount for six months.

"I will accept that condition if you agree to take down the symbol of the state placed on the wall behind you (in the courtroom)," Etzion told the judge.

Etzion, who spent five years in jail in the 1980s for planning to blow up the Moslem shrines on the Temple Mount, vowed to continue to fight for the rebuilding of the Temple.

Knesset to consider two versions of 'Yi'ud bill'

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Law Committee split evenly yesterday over whether to approve a bill enabling 'Yi'ud to rejoin the government, and will therefore bring two versions of the bill to the plenum for a second and third reading.

In a rare move, the bill was brought to vote in the committee virtually without discussion, after having been unexpectedly added

to the agenda Tuesday afternoon. "In five minutes the legislation was completed," said MK Yitzhak Levy (NRP). "I feel that there was an attempt to railroad the bill."

Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) responded that there was a discussion, but since none of the opposition MKs were present at 9 a.m., it was very short, and the bill was then brought to a vote.

Angry opposition MKs demanded a revote. The revote, however, resulted in a 7-7 tie between the original bill, by Eli Dayan and Sallah Tarif (Labor), and an alternate version presented by

Levy, since Moshe Maiya (Shas) arrived a minute too late to vote with the coalition.

The Dayan-Tarif bill overturns a High Court of Justice ruling which forbade members of breakaway parties to become ministers or deputy ministers - a ruling which virtually the entire house agreed was contrary to the legislature's intent in passing the law on which it was based.

Levy's version would do the same thing, but with three important differences. First, it would defer implementation of the bill, so that it would not apply to 'Yi'ud.

Second, it would require breakaway factions to be approved by

one-third of their original party's governing institution to be recognized by the Knesset.

Third, it would add a requirement that breakaway factions could only join the government if all members of the faction agree.

The bills are expected to be brought to the plenum for final reading on Monday, and the coalition is expected to muster an easy majority for the Dayan-Tarif version. Opposition MKs, however, are already planning delaying tactics.

"I submitted 88 proposed amendments, for the purpose of dragging this out all week," said Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet).

Zandberg also said he is looking into petitioning the High Court.

Hefetz: Missing girl may still be alive

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE hunting for 10-year-old Alexandra (Sasha) Brandt, who disappeared last Thursday, still have no news of her whereabouts, although Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said yesterday there is a chance she is still alive.

"All is not lost," said Hefetz during a visit to Tel Aviv. "She may still be alive."

"The best investigators in the country are working intensively on this difficult case and their aim is to solve it as soon as possible," said Hefetz, adding that at this stage family members have been cleared of any suspicion.

All family members have been questioned at length and have undergone lie-detector tests.

Although police have checked all borders, the possibility that she has been taken abroad has not been entirely ruled out.

"But it seems more likely that she has been abducted by someone locally," said one officer involved in the hunt. "Frankly, we are pessimistic. If she was still alive someone, somewhere, would have seen her."

KNESSET BRIEFS

Bus drivers to be trained to deal with terror

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar said a committee appointed to investigate public transport security measures in the light of recent terrorist attacks has recommended a series of reforms. These include a special training program for the 7,000 bus drivers on safety measures and precautions, the appointment of a Transport Ministry security officer for public transport, and the appointment of a special advisory committee headed by the prime minister's adviser on terrorism. Kessar said from now on two soldiers would be seated directly behind the driver. He added that the ministry and the army are close to agreement on free transportation for all conscript soldiers.

Shahal may release first offenders

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said he was considering pardoning 1,000 first-time offenders who have been sentenced to five years in jail or less, in order to reduce prison overcrowding. Shahal said only prisoners who were not convicted on drug charges or sex offenses would be considered for early release.

Bill would ease access to gov't documents

The Knesset passed in preliminary reading a bill calling for liberal public access to government documents within necessary constraints of confidentiality to protect other interests. Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker, one of the initiators, said the bill legislates principles that have already been established by the High Court of Justice.

Knesset to probe pornographic ads

The plenum decided to hold a general debate on the issue of pornographic advertisements in newspapers. Shlomo Benizri (Shas) and Dedi Zucker (Meretz), called for the discussion. Recently, the State Attorney's Office launched an investigation into pornographic advertisements in Yedioth Aharonot.

Dan Izenberg

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